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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

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HARRISBURG.

Special Dispatch to the Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, PA., March 21, 1872.

SENATE.

A Message from the Governor

Was read in reference to the joint resolution recently passed to recover from the United States moneys paid to and kept by George O. Evans. He said the bill had not his approval, but he refrained from vetoing it in deference to the wisdom of the Legislature, though he doubted the wisdom, expediency or policy of making this demand when the State had appointed a State agent when received the money. This resolution in effect repudiates such appointment, and the State could better afford to lose the money than place herself in this most questionable attitude. This bill is now a law.

Bills Introduced.

Mr Anderson, an amendment to the act consolidating the wards of Pittsburgh for educational purposes. This bill repeals the act of 1869 authorizing and requiring sub-district school boards to exclude colored children.

Bills Vetoed.

The Governor has vetoed the bills changing the name of the Dollar Real Estate Association of Allegheny, and incorporating the Monongahela Savings and Deposit Bank, on the ground that the Courts have power.

The Congressional apportionment bill passed first reading as amended by the Senate committee.

The General Appropriation Bill

Was then considered. Mr. Billingfelt moved an amendment disallowing the delivery of stationery to members, and allowing them each twenty-five dollars for the same.

Mr. Strang moved to strike out twenty-five dollars. Adopted, and Mr. Billingfelt's amendment as modified by Mr. Strang was passed. The bill was then postponed.

Pending consideration of Mr. Strang's amendment to the Constitutional Convention bill, adjourned.

The Local Option Law.

In the evening the special order was the House bill allowing the voters of wards, boroughs and townships throughout the State to vote every three years on license or no license to sell liquors. Mr. Hemphill moved to apply the bill to counties only and change the time of the first election from the next municipal election to the third Monday in March, 1873. The bill was debated till a late hour without final result.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House occupied all day on the first section of the new militia bill without conclusion.

Special to the Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, PA., March 22, 1872.

SENATE.

Mr. Petriken

Offered a resolution inquiring of the Governor why his new appointment of State Librarian had not been made, though the commission of the present Librarian expired on the first Monday of February. Passed.

Rothermel's Picture.

Mr. Davis, of Berks, offered a resolution transferring Rothermel's Gettysburg battle painting to Joseph Harrison, of Philadelphia, for twenty-five thousand dollars, to be transferred by him to the Philadelphia Park Commission. Laid over.

Conference Committee on Constitutional Convention Bill.

Mr. Strang, by consent, withdrew his amendment to the Constitutional Convention bill. The Senate insisted upon its amendment, non-concurred in by the House, and Messrs. Billingfelt, White and Buckalew were appointed a committee of conference on the part of the Senate.

Local Option Bill Passed.

The bill allowing the voters of wards, boroughs and townships to vote every three years on the question of license or no license, was passed finally, with an amendment confining the operation of the bill to counties instead of wards, boroughs and townships, and postponing the first election under the bill to the third Friday in March, 1873, and revoking all license on the first day of April, 1873, in the counties where the people decide against license. This bill passed by a vote of 16 to 14, all the Republicans voting aye, and all the Democrats voting no, except Findlay, who voted aye.

A Family Job Spoiled.

The Milford and Matamoras repealing bill came up. This bill repeals the act by which the Dimicks, one of whom was a member of the Legislature that passed the act, are allowed ten thousand dollars per year for ninety-nine years. The Dimicks and their relations are the only stockholders in this company.

Broadhead offered an amendment reducing the term to thirty years.

Mr. Buckalew offered an amendment reducing the term to ten years.

Accepted Mr. Buckalew's amendment, and further added that if the road was not finished in one year or afterwards ceased to operate for six months, the annuity shall be forfeited. This was rejected by 12 to 17. The bill repealing the annuity was then passed, yeas 21, nays 9.

Nominations by the Governor.

The Governor sent in the nomination of Rev. O. H. Miller, of Allegheny city, for State Librarian. Laid over for five days. The Governor also sent in the nomination of Hon. James M. Wickersham, for Superintendent of Common Schools, which was unanimously confirmed. Both Houses adjourned till Monday evening. The House will be busy transacting any important business for Western Pennsylvania.

Special to the Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, PA., March 25, 1872.

SENATE.

Senator Wadell, of the Fifth District, Republican, was sworn in.

The bill regulating service of notice of protest in Pittsburgh and Allegheny, which allows such notices to be deposited in the nearest postoffice as sufficient notice, was reported negatively.

Bills Introduced.

Mr. Graham, securing tenants, under-tenants and parties in possession the right to appeal from Aldermen and Justices of the Peace to Common Pleas.

Mr. Anderson, joint resolution appointing a committee of three from each House to inquire into the propriety of removing the capital of the State. He wanted this resolution considered, but Mr. Mumma objected, and the motion fell.

Mr. Humphreys, incorporating the Suburban Railway Company, corporators H. R. Montgomery, John L. Woodworth, E. T. Scott; also, repealing the act repealing the fifteenth section of the act relating to the election, approved in 1871, so far as relates to West Pittsburgh, Monongahela, South Pittsburgh, Birmingham, East Birmingham, Mount Washington, and Ormsby; also, incorporating the Columbia Conduit.

The Apportionment Bill.

The Congressional apportionment bill was made the special order for to-morrow evening.

Treasury Investigation.

Mr. Billingfelt introduced a resolution requesting the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund to inform the Senate what amount of the public debt has been redeemed since the 1st day of May last past, what amount redeemed in each month, the amount of unexpended balance in the State Treasury at the present time, and the amount of overdue loans remaining unpaid. Passed.

The General Appropriation Bill

Was considered. A contest arose on restoring the private charities struck out by the Senate Committee, and many propositions were made, some for the purpose of weighting down the bill with this class of appropriations. Among the amendments offered were, by Mr. Anderson, $5,000 for the Shelchering Arms of Allegheny, and by Mr. Graham for $5,000 for the Home of the Friendless, and $5,000 for the House of Mercy, Pittsburgh. Pending discussion adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Bills Introduced.

Mr. Taylor, authorizing the payment into the city treasury of all fees collected by officers of Pittsburgh.

Mr. Edwards, repealing the act incorporating the East Liberty and Township Plank Road Company.

MUDDLED MEXICO.

Juarez Again at the Top of the Heap—The Revolution Receives Its Death Blow—Gen. Rocha Defeats and Gobbles a Whole Revolutionary Army—The War Almost Ended—Anarchy Commenced—Honors to Americans.

CITY OF MEXICO, March 15, *via* HAVANA, March 25.—The government forces are triumphing over the revolutionists. Gen. Rocha has driven them out of the cities of Aguas, Calientas, Lagos and Zacatecas, and relieved the troops at San Luis Potosi. In a battle on the second Gen. Rocha, with 6,000 troops, defeated the united revolutionary forces, numbering 9,000 men, killing and wounding 2,000, and capturing 7,000 men and all their artillery except three guns. The revolutionists retreated toward Fresnillo and Xerez, being pursued by Gen. Rocha. Gen. Rocha's victory is a death blow to the revolutionary projects, but anarchy will prevail for a long time.

General Negrete, with 1,500 men, keeps the States of Puebla, Hidalgo and Thascala in constant alarm by his acts of vandalism. He avoids open engagements, but with his troops attacks defenseless towns, haciendas, and railroad trains. On the 3d he attacked a working party on the Apizaco railroad, consisting of the paymaster, employees and laborers, returned on the fourth and fifth, and found John Quinn, the superintendent. On the 8th and 9th he attacked several pulqui trains destroying the freight.

Gen. Rocha is accused of shooting a number of prisoners. President Juarez receives the congratulations of the press at the capital. Wm. C. Bryant and Wm. H. Hurlburt have received many honors and ovations at the capital from various associations. They leave for Vera Cruz on the 20th, the Government furnishing a special escort of one hundred men. Martial law exists in twelve States.

WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 25, 1872.

The Australian Subsidy.

Senator Cole will to-morrow call up the Australian subsidy bill, and ask for its immediate consideration.

Departments Out of Funds.

Various government departments having run short of funds, are now pressing immediate action on the deficiency bills. It is stated that serious embarrassment is already occasioned to the public business through the tardy action on these bills.

No Investigation Asked for by France.

The French Arms Committee to-day received a dispatch from Minister Washburne to Mr. Fish, saying he had official information from the proper source that no investigation of the character affirmed by Mr. Sumner had constituted in France.

Shelved.

The all-embracing Asiasic Commercial Company, invented by Peters, of Maine, and Hon. Ben Eggleston, of Ohio, came to a sudden end in the House to-day. Peters called it up, and the House laid it on the table by a nearly unanimous vote. The bill made the corporators named Directors for a year. Aside from an extended commercial business, this company was by the bill authorized to engage in public works in Japan, China and throughout Asia, and also to issue shin-plasters in the shape of promissory notes, drafts, bills of exchange or any other obligations, provided only that none of this banking paper shall be circulated in the United States. For all these privileges the company did not assume any visible responsibility.

Personal.

Mr. Shellabarger, of Ohio, returned to-day. He is much better.

The Ku-Klux Cases Dismissed.

The Supreme Court this morning, Chief Justice Chase only dissenting, sustained the demurrer by the government to its jurisdiction of the Ku-Klux cases in the form in which they came on appeal, and dismissed them from its calendar. This summary proceeding is a decided surprise to Messrs. Johnson and Stansbury, who had thoroughly prepared themselves to argue the merits of their appeal, and to whom the question of jurisdiction was only suggested a few days since. This decision settles the practical operation of the Ku Klux law, for the remainder of the present administration at least; for though other cases are appealed, it will be a year at the earliest before they can be reached in the Court. It is stated by persons likely to be correctly informed, that the Court would have been evenly divided upon the question of the constitutionality of the law had it been submitted to them.

Louisiana Politics.

Governor Warmouth, of Louisiana, left for New York this morning, and Lieutenant Governor Pinchbeck, of the same State, for New Orleans this evening, with the understanding that he is to call a State Republican Convention on the second of May. Yesterday Warmouth had a long interview with the President, at which several of the Cabinet and Senator West were present, and Louisiana politics were thoroughly discussed. The proposition for a State Convention was made by Warmouth, who professed his readiness to respect whatever action may be taken by the Convention, and to permit Marshal Packard to preside if he wished. Warmouth's friends are greatly elated at the success of his visit to this city, which they say has practically neutralized the federal opposition to his administration, and made his renomination for Governor a foregone conclusion. They concede that there will be an independent Republican ticket in the field. It is not unlikely that in consequence of the unexpected relations between Warmouth's friends and the President the opposition to Packer's confirmation as Collector may be withdrawn, though a delegation of colored citizens of Louisiana are here endeavoring to procure the appointment of State Senator J. A. Ingraham, colored, to the position.

The Appropriation Bills.

The House Committee on Appropriations to-day completed the discussion of the Senate amendments to the legislative appropriation bill, and a report will be back to the House immediately after the army bill is disposed of. The greater portion of the amendments have been disagreed to, the principal exception being the Senate action to-day being that fixing the salaries of all United States District Judges at five thousand dollars annually, which was non-concurred in. Nearly all of the amendments increasing the salaries of the principal bureau officers in this city were concurred in. The salary of the Chief Clerk of the Register, of the Treasurer and Commissioner of the General Land Office, which were fixed a four thousand dollars by the Senate, was fixed a four thousand dollars by the House. Indian Commissioners at $3,500.

The amendment proposing to extend the capitol grounds by the purchase of two additional squares of land at an expense of any where from half a million to a million was also rejected.

The Tariff Discussion

In the Senate excited no interest whatever, owing to the almost positive certainty that the House will insist upon presenting its own revenue measures, reported from its own committee. It is generally considered that the time now given by the Senate to Sherman's bill is thrown away. To-day set speeches were made by Frelinghuysen and Johnston, of Virginia, and several amendments were offered. The one offered by Morton proposes to abolish all internal taxes save those arising from tobacco, spirits and fermented liquor, which is in accordance with the recommendations on this subject in the last annual message of the President. Mr. Scott also proposed to put tea and coffee on the free list. This amendment will call out the full protection vote of the Senate, and if successful will necessitate the recommital of the whole tariff bill for general revision.

Light Punishment.

Charles W. Butts, attorney in the Bowen and DeLarge contested election case, was fined five hundred dollars here to-day in the Police Court for an assault upon a young school girl.

RAILWAY MATTERS.

The Union Pacific Terminus Squabble.

OMAHA, March 21.—In consequence of the hesitancy of Iowa roads to ignore the plainly illegal act of the Iowa Legislature, prohibiting the transfer of freight and passengers to Nebrasda roans, the Union Pacific has temporarily leased the bridge transfer to the highest bidder, Geo. W. Homan, Jr., of this city. By this intermediate agency eastern roads will evade the Iowa act and deliver freight and passengers to the Union Pacific and other roads here until the matter is permanently settled, upon the basis established by the Union Pacific in its contract with Omaha.

COUNCIL BLUFFS, March 21.—A telegram received in this city from Senator Harlan, from Washington, states that the Union Pacific directors have acquiesced in the decision of the Government directors that Council Bluffs, and not Omaha, is the legal terminus of the Union Pacific. But it appears that the amount of the contract with Omaha two transfers will be made, one here and one in Omaha. The contract for transferring freight and passengers across the new bridge has been let for the present to G. W. Homan, Jr., of Omaha. A great many are of the opinion that the question of terminus will have to go to the Federal Courts for final adjustment.

The case of Crane vs. the Union Pacific Railroad, pending before Judge Love, on a motion to set aside the commissioners' ground for right way in this city, was dismissed, on motion of the attorneys for the Railroad company—first, because the confirmation of the right of way was for a side track a mile from the main line; second, because the railroad no longer needed the ground. There was, therefore, no question concerning the terminus, nor any other question decided by Judge Love in that case, Omaha papers and telegrams to the contrary notwithstanding. The passenger and freight platform of the Union Pacific in this city will be completed this evening or early to-morrow, and trains will cross the bridge on Monday. The meantime transfer boats are doing excellent service in the transfer of freight and passengers, so that Eastern men need not fear any delay.

Election of Officers for the Buffalo and Jamestown Road.

BUFFALO, March 21.—At a meeting of the directors of the Buffalo and Jamestown Railway, the New York branch of the direct road to Titusville, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, A. Richmond; Vice President, James Adams; Treasurer, Abraham Altman. At a meeting held at the Council Chamber this evening delegations from Jamestown, Titusville, Oil City and other points on the line of the road reported the progress made in their respective localities. The greatest enthusiasm prevailed. The building of the through road to the oil regions is placed beyond a doubt.

SAN DOMINGO.

Cabral Wins a Victory—Attempt to Assassinate Baez—People Still Anxious for Annexation.

PORTO PLATA, March 10, *via* HAVANA, March 21.—President Baez has again lost the town of Savaneta. It is reported that he was defeated at San Juan by Cabral, who was unable to advance for want of money and ammunition. The people object to the warring Cabral, believing he may still have hopes of annexation to the United States, or an American protectorate. An attempt was made on the 4th instant to assassinate President Baez. Simultaneously with the murder, his cousin, Adolfo Caen, who was shot in the street by Juan Julier. The murderer was arrested, but subsequently escaped, and is now on Turk's Island.

Fire at Monroeville, Ind.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

MONROEVILLE, IND., March 23, 1872.

This morning about eight o'clock the residence of Thomas Jones, situated about one mile east of this place, took fire, totally destroying the building and most of its furniture. Loss $2,000; no insurance.

EVANS TESTIFIES.

THE COMMITTEE CATCH HIM IN NEW YORK.

Not a Single Officer of the State Received a Cent of the Money.

NEW YORK, March 24.—A Legislative committee from Harrisburg visited this city yesterday, and took the testimony of the late agent Evans, concerning the Pennsylvania war claim frauds. The ex-agent, who is stopping at one of the hotels, underwent a two hours' catechising in the presence of his counsel. The substance of his testimony was that not a single officer of the State received a cent of the money. The bulk of what he received during the four years of his agency was spent in liquidating old claims against him, and which he considered debts of honor, peculating, and in clerk hire. Of the money received as commission, he paid $6,000 to D. C. Forney, of the Washington *Chronicle*, $20,000 to S. P. Brown, a State agent, resident at Washington, $2,500 to the editors of the Harrisburg *State Guard*, and $6,000 to Dr. Trimble, of Washington, for aid in referring vouchers. The witness was in doubt whether he drafted the resolution creating his office.

CENTRAL AMERICAN UNION.

Pact Between Costa Rica, Honduras Guatemala and Nicaragua.

NEW YORK, March 25.—The pact of the Central American Union, composed of the states of Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala and Salvador, signed on the 17th of February, contains an engagement to preserve intact the autonomy and integrity of Central American territory; provides that other than a Republican form of government shall never be established; that disputes between members shall be settled by the mediation of others; that rebellion in either country is treason against all; that the duration of the presidential term in all the republics shall be uniform without immediate reelection; that no one can be a slave within Central American territory, and a Central American becoming the owner of slaves in another country loses his nationality and the protection of the laws; that a citizen of either Republic acquires the rights of citizenship in all the others by the mere expression of the wish before any government authorized to receive the right of asylum is recognized for emigrants or political exiles from any part of the world. The compact also provides for common national highways, establishment of mail steamers, and excavation of an inter-oceanic canal through Nicaragua, and the National Congress, which meets May 17th at Honduras, Central America, provided for, and the death penalty for political crimes is abolished. Nicaragua has not signed the pact, but is expected to do so.

OIL FREIGHTS.

Meeting of Railway Men, Producers and Refiners in New York—A Satisfactory Arrangement Made.

NEW YORK, March 25.—A conference was held to-day between Col. Scott, representing the Pennsylvania Central, Wm. H. Vanderbilt, representing the New York Central, and Col. Phillips, representing the Allegheny Valley Railroads, and deputations of oil refiners and producers and the New York and Boston petroleum associations, in reference to the freight question. The negotiations were secret, but it is understood a satisfactory arrangement was perfected.

It was agreed that all arrangements for the shipment of oil from and after this date shall be on the basis of perfect equality to all shippers, producers and refiners, and that no rebates, drawbacks or other arrangements of any character shall be made or allowed that will give any party the slightest difference in rates or discrimination in favor whatever. The rates were fixed at $1 65 from Oildom to Boston; $1 50 to New fined oil, benzine, &c.; $1 50 from Cleveland to New York, $1 35 from the same to Philadelphia and Baltimore, $1 50 on crude oil to Boston, $1 35 to New York, $1 20 to Philadelphia and Baltimore, and 50 cents to Cleveland, Pittsburgh and Titusville. The rates are not to be changed, except on ninety days' notice to the President of the Producers' Union.

MOB LAW AT NASHVILLE.

Negro Murderer Taken from Jail and Hanged—He is Rescued by the Police But Only to Die from Wounds Received.

NASHVILLE, March 25.—On Sunday morning a negro named David Jones robbed the house of a farmer named Murray, and when the latter offered resistance, used a club on him, leaving him for dead. The murderer was arrested and put in jail. At nine o'clock to-night a mob broke open the jail, and after shooting the prisoner put a rope around his neck and dragged him out on the public square and strung him up to a lamp post. Before he was dead six policemen rushed to the spot and drawing their pistols began firing right and left, cut down the negro and carried him to the Police station. He was fatally wounded, however, and will not live until midnight. The mob are now dispersed and two companies of military are on the grounds.

Homicide at Plymouth, Ind.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

PLYMOUTH, IND., March 25, 1872.

This morning about nine o'clock, a shooting affray occurred, which terminated in the death of one Laur, a draymen of this place. He was passing the auction store of C. & J. Kern, when the latter and himself got into a dispute about the hauling of some goods. It finally came to blows. Laur struck Kern and staggered him back a few feet. He then turned on a clerk of Kern's and was just in the act of striking him, when Kern drew a revolver and fired three shots at Laur, only one taking effect. The ball entered his left side below the heart. He staggered back a few paces, and sank down. Two of the bystanders carried him into a store, where he died from the effects of his injuries afterwards. Laur was a young man about twenty-five years old, and leaves a wife and two children in poor circumstances. Kern is now under arrest.

Boy Torn to Pieces in a Cotton Mill at Wellsburg, W. Va.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WHEELING, March 22, 1872.

A sad accident occurred this evening at the cotton factory in Wellsburg, West Va. A boy aged fourteen, named Frank Blankensay, son of a widow, while attempting to put a belt on a drum, was caught by the shaft, whirling him around with fearful rapidity. His cries attracted the attention of the engineer, who immediately stopped the engine. He was found in a terrible condition, one arm being entirely torn from his body, both legs broken and skull fractured.

A Young German, Disappointed in Love, Commits Suicide at Canfield, O.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

CANFIELD, O., March 23, 1872.

A young man by the name of Lewis Hertd, in the employ of Swank & Son, of this place, as a carriage painter, committed suicide this morning by hanging, and was found about one o'clock this afternoon hanging to the limb of a tree. He left a letter saying that he been disappointed in love. Young Hertd was a German, about eighteen years of age, and had been only about eight months from the old country.

Industrial Enterprise at Delphos, O.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

DELPHOS, O., March 23, 1872.

The buildings of the Ohio Wheel Company are somewhat delayed by frost, but will soon be in running order, giving employment to one hundred men. The leading men of Delphos appreciate the benefit of all such enterprises.

BOOTH.

President Grant's Position.

The Washington *Republican* has the following editorial:

"President Grant's position on the subject of the nomination for the Presidency, as well as for the Vice Presidency, is that he cannot be asked any one to vote for his own renomination, or in the slightest way to work for it. He feels that it is for the people, through their representatives in national convention assembled, to say who shall or who shall not be their standard bearers. If they decide that he is the man who of all men ought to lead them in the campaign whose shadow is already upon us, as they decided during the rebellion and after, when the rebellion came to an end, very good. He will accept the responsibility and duty to which he is called. If not, not. He will stand by the party and its organization all the same. If he is renominated and had the choice of a candidate with him on the ticket he would probably select Mr. Colfax. Their relations have always been, as our Indiana contemporary says, of the most agreeable character. Mr. Colfax has never interfered in any way with the executive in the difficult and thankless matter of appointments and patronage. He has not, as other Vice Presidents have done, asked to be allowed any voice in the selection of appointments, even to reward his own friends, and if renominated and reelected would probably maintain the same course in future."

LETTER FROM CALIFORNIA.

Great Diversity of Climate—Advantages of Santa Barbara as a Resort for Invalids—Almost a Perpetual Summer—Fruits and Flowers—The Catholic Mission—The Largest Grape Vine in the World—Personal, &c., &c.

Special Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Commercial.

SANTA BARBARA, CAL., February 27, 1871.

I am not given to "correspondence," as my silence during a nine months' absence, in which I have traversed some four thousand miles of the rudest yet most interesting portions of our vast country, will testify. In these times, when almost every tourist assumes to be a correspondent, may I not lay claim to some merit in the way of self-control? Two reasons have chiefly induced this silence. First, I am abroad mainly to escape all mental labor, and a readable correspondence always involves more or less of this; and second, the conviction has forced itself upon me during these travels, that correspondence is vastly overdone to the deception or nauseating of the public mind, as well as to the detriment of particular localities which are said to be "written up," when it could be more truthfully said they are "written down." But at length the point of endurance seems to be reached. My supposed virtue seems at last to fail me, and I am constrained to commit myself to paper. My friends insist that I shall speak my impressions of this Santa Barbara region in the hearing of the people of my own Smoky, yet still loved and longed for city; and perhaps gratitude to a clime that has afforded me a mild and balmy retreat from the rigors of a northern winter, and the well being of a multitude of fellow-invalids longing and sighing for some relief, demand it.

You are aware, Mr. Editor, that this coast furnishes almost every variety of climate, and that a marked difference is discoverable between localities in very close proximity. Perhaps this is sometimes exaggerated, as this striking illustration, which a friend suggests, will indicate: An unfortunate canine suddenly found himself stretched between two of these near localities of diverse climates in such a way that while his scenting sensibilities were exposed to an Arctic temperature, threatening perhaps fatal results, his caudal extremity was scorching under a tropical heat. Nevertheless, such diversity is an undoubted fact, and is so marked as to astonish every observer when first realized.

Now it is claimed, and I think appropriately, that Santa Barbara has a decided advantage in the way of climate, because of its peculiarly sheltered position. Point Conception, some forty miles above, the coast takes an almost easterly course, and at Point Rincoln, fifteen miles below, returns to its general southerly course. Thus the Bay of Santa Barbara is formed, which deeply indents the coast valley, and forming a base to this bay, directly opposite the town of Santa Barbara, some twenty-five miles distant, the high and rocky island of Santa Clara, which, together with others of a group, serves to break the rough ocean currents. The coast valley is protected landward by a mountain chain of from one to a thousand feet above the level of the sea, while both upon the north and south of the mountain range gate-ways of large reaching to the sea. Thus a kind of reservoir is formed, into which the storms cannot leap in their native wildness, but where the tamed ocean breezes, freighted with their native saline, meet the higher and dryer mountain air, and thus commingling, form such a mild, and yet at the same time bracing and invigorating exhilirating atmosphere, as is perhaps not surpassed by any other clime.

From these favored surroundings you will look for a higher uniformity of temperature, and so it is. During the three months of my stay here, including November, December and January, the range has ranged from 48 to 78. Very often has it reached the latter figure, but only once has it fallen to the former—I mean at the time of observation, 7 A. M. Several times have I felt the need of fire at night, as we have had a little frost perhaps three times, and once ice of the thickness of paper, which I took to Montana as a curiosity. The general range of the thermometer, however, from day to day, has been from 48 to 54 in the morning, and from 60 to 66 at noon. Often the change from day to day and week to week is scarce be the variation of one degree. Nor is this uniformity characteristic alone of any part throughout the year, but the entire winter season register kept here by responsible parties, I learn that during last year there were only twenty degrees difference between the highest and lowest mean temperature during the months of August and December, the former rating at 72° and the latter at 52°. The coldest day during that period was February 22d, when the thermometer at 42°, and the warmest October 30th, when it reached 92°. These figures, I believe, show the mean temperature for the day. There seems to be no autumn, but an almost perpetual summer, and this, too, without the objectionable features of more northern summers. Instead of the long and hot summer prevails, as the atmosphere, owing to this wonderful combination of sea and mountain air, is entirely free from sultriness. No matter how intense the heat out of the shade, the atmosphere is invigorating, and no sooner does the sun disappear than the cooler air from sea and mountain displaces the warmer, and a very delightful nights, requiring about the same amount of bed clothing the year round.

The territory thus highly favored is by no means confined to narrow limits. Some forty or fifty miles in length, with an average width of about three miles. Much of this is broken by mountains, and only one fourth or one fifth more than one half is available for cultivation. My first impressions of the country were very unfavorable, as I came here just at the end of the two years' drouth. Not a spear of vegetation was to be seen, save in the gardens, where I find with skilful and laborious cultivation, almost all fruits, trees and vegetables may be grown, even in the dryest season, without irrigation. The transformation, however, is complete. On the 20th of November a few heavy showers fell, since. The next day the little white roots of the grass seeds were already bursting through the recently hard, seemingly barren soil, and in one week, miraculous as it may seem, the valleys and hills began to rejoice on every side in a covering of living green. A week's rain succeeded at the holidays, and now, in whatever direction you look, the country stretches out like a bright picture, in which the peculiarly rich and truly living green of the valley and foothills contrasts beautifully with the brown of the bare and rugged mountain peaks, while at the foot of all lies the gentle Pacific, whose smooth and glassy surface seems to mirror the whole landscape.

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The Pittsburgh Commercial: Saturday, March 30, 1872.

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 1872.

"Disease is the penalty of dirt," exclaims a leading Democratic journal in a well considered article concerning the importance of systematic sanitary regulations in all crowded centers of population. It is perfectly true, and is also the reason why the Democratic party is so dreadfully sick; for the law applies as well in morals as in physics.

The dissatisfaction which is reported to exist among the holders of government coupon bonds and other parties subject to income tax, in consequence of the interpretation put upon the income tax laws by the Internal Revenue Bureau, is not at all unnatural. The general understanding of the matter has been that Congress designed that no income tax should be collected after January 1st of the present year; but it is now held that the tax must be retained on all coupons due up to and including the first of June next, payment of which takes in any month of last year. In making out their income tax returns, persons holding these classes of bonds should therefore bear this fact, annoying as it is, in mind.

The Connecticut campaign is fast drawing to a close. The Boards of Selectmen throughout the State have held their final sessions to admit new voters, excepting those whose qualifications are yet to mature. The Republicans are said to have made considerable gains in all sections, comparing applications from both parties with the number actually made. In Hartford they are represented as being fully one hundred and fifty ahead, the Democrats conceding over one hundred. The Waterbury Republicans had one hundred and fifteen to make, and made one hundred and eight, while the Democrats in the same town having two hundred and forty-six to make got only one hundred and ten in. Willimantic made two Republicans to one Democrat. So in other towns of the State. The returns are very encouraging, and warrant a strong belief in the election of the Republican ticket next Monday.

In what way the seating of Colonel McClure in the chair of the Fourth Senatorial election district, should it occur, as it seems likely to do, will tend to seriously affect the Administration prospects" in this State, as Senator Cameron is said to hold that it will, does not clearly appear. The Committee will not be likely to report in favor of his admission except upon convincing proof of his election, nor is it probable that the Senate will on any other grounds declare him entitled to a seat. How an act of bare and simple justice can impair the prospects of the party which performs it, is beyond our comprehension. The peril to the Republican party (if it stands in any), does not arise—will never arise—from this source. If no other injury comes to it except that which results from right doing, the most timid need not fear alarm. Whatever danger there may be lurks in a different quarter.

In the course of an article corrective of certain alleged misrepresentations of the *Tribune's* views and opinions, that journal, referring to some of the President's appointments to office, says: "We are certain that Gen. Grant has not meant to err in this respect; had his constitutional advisers been uniformly frank, fearless, faithful, he would have avoided the error." The *Tribune* goes on to say, further, that he fell into this error by reason of his inexperience in politics, and—while firmly insisting that in this particular he has a mistaken conception of his trust—very frankly concedes that his unfortunate appointments "are less numerous than his good ones." This being the case, it will strike most reflective people that the opposition of the *Tribune* to the President is out of all proportion to the character of his shortcomings. Is it likely that the nominee of the Cincinnati gutta-percha hists will, in the language of the *Tribune*, more "clearly apprehend the true nature and scope of his powers?"

The Legislature of Illinois has passed a law, which has been approved by the Governor, and goes into effect on the 1st of July, providing that no person shall be prohibited from any occupation, profession or employment, except the military, on account of sex; provided that it shall not be construed to affect eligibility to office, to require women to work on streets or roads, or to serve on juries. Of fully equal importance, perhaps, is the movement on foot in that State to secure the passage of a law establishing a State University for the practical instruction of females in those lighter mechanical and industrial arts in which woman's finer taste and nicer touch fit her to excel. This is a matter which, sweet to those who delight in the contemplation of the character of the useful arts practised by men, through a scientific and liberal education in them, it would certainly seem fully as important and much more elevated to women to esteem the great art of woman's industry by the same effective means; since, although the industries of men create wealth, the economies of women ought equally to conserve wealth or usefully expend it. "The woman's cause is man's," and Illinois begins to discern it.

The State Convention to nominate candidates for Governor and Judge of the Supreme Court, (and possibly a candidate for Auditor General,) will assemble in Harrisburg, on Wednesday, April 10th. This county is entitled to ten delegates in that convention, which are to be chosen at a delegate convention to be held in this city, on Tuesday, April 2d. The primary meetings have been called for Saturday next, the time of each election district to choose one delegate. The voting in the cities and boroughs will be between the hours of four and seven, and in the townships between four and six o'clock of the afternoon. These meetings are very important, and should not be neglected by the Republican voters. Prudent, sagacious and influential men should be chosen to represent this county in the State Convention, and to this end the voters should see that capable men are sent to make the choice in the County Convention. In addition to the duty of nominating a State ticket, the Harrisburg convention will also name an Electoral ticket, and elect Senatorial and Representative delegates to the Republican National Convention, to be held in Philadelphia on the 5th of June next.

After many delays in their preparation the new civil service rules have been completed and will, it is understood, at once go into effect. Now then, let the system have a fair and impartial trial. The plan, being experimental, cannot be expected to produce any great improvements all at once. Time and experience will develop alike its excellencies and its defects, and such modifications and changes as are demanded can be made as the necessity arises. One thing is certain—that the system heretofore in vogue was all wrong, and it is to be hoped the country may never be subjected to so much unnecessary, glaring and savage scrambles on the part of its citizens for office, again. It is understood that the feature of life or good behaviour tenure of office has been dropped, upon the grounds that it was in discord with the maxims and habits of the people, and that the tendency of events is more and more to frequent redistribution of public office. It is to be trusted that the rules may be simply and honestly carried out. Whether the new system will satisfactorily settle the vexed question remains to be seen. It can hardly fail, however, to be an almost immeasureable improvement upon the practice which it supersedes.

When the late flurry over the Alabama question was at its height, we gave some figures showing that the losses to England by the business interruptions and financial depreciations caused thereby, amounted to a considerably greater sum than the aggregate of the direct damages claimed by the United States. These disturbing influences seem to have reached farther than people on this side of the water have any idea of, and to have affected us considerably beyond the range of our securities. It appears that the misunderstanding put an instant stop to the preparations of numerous companies of persons belonging to the English middle classes, which at the time were in process of formation for immigration to this country. These parties, the members of which generally possess from five to ten thousand dollars each, are usually organized during the winter, so as to enter on their work in this country early in the spring. The late difficulty arose just in time to completely derange the plans of nearly all these intending settlers, and consequently to deprive the country of a very considerable amount of capital and valuable enterprise. It is not likely that any further injury of this character will result to either of the two countries from the future progress of the discussion; but the fact itself contains a lesson which cool-headed statesmen as well as hot-headed charlatans would do well to heed.

A number of Southern journals, here and there, are throwing out occasional intimations that if President Grant is renominated, it is not unlikely he may receive a considerable scattering vote of the Democracy of that region. While, speculating on the chances of Senator Sumner's nomination at Cincinnati, they do not hesitate to declare that, as between President Grant and himself, they greatly prefer the former. In a somewhat similar but broader vein, a writer in the New Orleans *Picayune*, (Conservative Democrat), whom that journal editorially indorses as "an old and respected citizen and a thorough Southerner," advocates the re-election of the President for another term, for the benefit of the people of the South. The writer, who states that he was a Confederate soldier, and is not ashamed of it, says that he believes no other man could have held firmly the Presidential reins during the past three years, and that General Grant's "tenacious will and rule are needed yet another term, when we will have outgrown, as in that period after the old revolutionary struggle, the terrible demoralization that followed the late war." The *Picayune* observes that, "to some persons this thought has been no stranger for a good while," and intimates that under the peculiar exigencies of the time "it is beginning to spread from the few to the many." Under these circumstances is it not about time for the New York *World* and the Pittsburgh *Post* each to republish its famous editorial eulogies on the President?

THE ARMY AND ABUSES.

When one considers how seldom people in the older States are reminded of the existence of a regular army among us by the sight of its members, it is not surprising that military affairs are neglected. In fact, there is a rather common notion in the average American mind that the army is a mere useless source of expense, which might be abolished without serious detriment to the country at large or any of its important interests. While some have always seen the necessity of a few soldiers to occupy frontier posts, and help to put down Indians of murderous proclivities, perhaps a greater number have been wont to think that even for these services a small force of the army has been overestimated, and that the use has been cultivated for the instrument rather than the instrument for the use. Such impressions, however ill founded, are not unnatural among a busy people, who never have occasion to see and seldom have occasion to anticipate the need of regularly trained soldiers either for the preservation of order, or for defense against foreign enemies. And yet the little army of the United States is one of our most essential institutions. With reference to the question of size there have been and may be differences of opinion among thoughtful statesmen, but from the beginning American politicians of that class have been pretty well agreed as to the policy of maintaining a regular military force as a nucleus for the organization of the militia in the contingency of domestic or foreign war. After making all necessary abatements it must be conceded that their theoretical views on this subject have been fully justified by experience. In opening up new Territories in the West and Southwest, in maintaining order on the frontier and in the protection of emigrants, and in our foreign wars as well as in the great struggle of recent years, the regular army with its well educated and accomplished officers, has rendered such services to the country as have seemed to make much of the difference between failure and success. Then, in employments subsidiary to the army, though not strictly military, in the coast survey, in various works of engineering, and in labors of inland survey and exploration, officers trained at West Point have done much to enhance the credit of the country abroad, and thus as well as in the form of practical results of utility, have perhaps more than repaid the entire expenses of the school. One fact is especially worthy of mention and remembrance, the great value to the country of so considerable a body of public servants distinguished for personal integrity. Not forgetting the disreputable exceptions, we may yet with confidence say that army officers regularly educated at West Point are, as a class, gentlemen in the old fashioned sense of the word, with whom honesty is a point of professional and personal honor. In a word, there is abundant reason why the people should not only take a deep interest in their small regular army in view of its actual use, but feel a decided pride in the organization in view of its past performances.

In the telegraphic news of Monday there was a long letter from Washington, detailing certain abuses in the army which are the manifest consequences of the indifference with which the people regard their military establishment. Two or three months ago we referred to the frequency of desertions as having become an enormous evil, which, in ignorance of facts, we had before attributed to improper reasons. This *Tribune* letter makes the matter plain enough. Formerly, it seems, civilians were employed as laborers in "getting out lumber, quarrying stone, running saw mills, burning brick and lime, driving wagon," and other such non-military work as is often required at the various army posts, thereby relieving the troops at Washington, and with a view to economy, the number of civilians thus employed has been so reduced that it is now necessary to turn one-half of the army into laborers, while only could earn as laborers. of course the soldiers grow discontented and desert. Those who remain naturally soon cease to take any pride or pleasure in their soldierly duties, and seldom fail to take advantage of their ample opportunities of drunkenness. Discipline is generally relaxed, and so-called regular soldiers are really less effective than raw recruits.

Another surprising feature of the system mentioned in the *Tribune* letter is the fact that while one-half of the soldiers are employed as mere laborers, "an officer is forbidden in any case whatever to use an enlisted man as a servant." Hence, that the officers, who are generally impossible to find servants, an officer on sudden emergencies when haste is of the utmost importance is compelled, besides his regular duties, to attend to his horse, cook his own food, etc., though he may be surrounded with men capable of doing these things for him. We also find some statements concerning the character and efficiency of our army officers, which are so astonishing that they are inconsistent with their former reputation as to call for immediate attention at the War Department. On the authority of "records of courts martial," the writer mentions "instances of both petty embezzlements and drunkenness for which no parallel can be found in any of the European armies." If there may be exaggeration in this, although it would be strange if the army had wholly escaped the flood of corruptions which has swept over the country since the war. Negligence in inspection is alleged as one chief cause of the prevailing evils, and it may be that increased interest in and attention to the army on the part of the public, are more likely than anything else to result in the greatly needed reforms.

PAYMENT NOT PAINFUL.

Several weeks ago we referred briefly to the patriotic enthusiasm with which French people of both sexes and of all ages had engaged in the work of paying off the remaining three milliards of the German debt. In using this language we intend to express no opinion as to the feasibility of the enterprise, but simply to indicate the spirit which animates the subscribers to the fund. Probably few of them at first paused to form even an approximative notion of the vastness of the sum which they proposed to raise. Knowing the amount to be so enormous as, when expressed in any familiar unit of European currency, to impose upon the imagination like those long series of numerals which indicate the distances and orbits of celestial bodies, some of the subscribers take manifest pleasure in the audacity which presumes to undertake the enterprise of payment. The feeling is allied to that old-fashioned French courage which magnified itself by declining to count its enemies, while exulting in the anxiety with which more exact knowledge filled disinterested spectators of the combat. In the glow of their patriotic fervor the members of the great nation do not fail to be well aware of the sympathetic admiration with which foreigners behold the sensitiveness, vitality, energy and self-denial which they are displaying, and while believing that the premature payment of their debt is the beginning of their revenge, they also seem to themselves to be redeeming the reputation that was tarnished if not lost in the misfortunes of the war. While doing all justice to the credulous and mixed sentiments and emotions by which the subscribers to the fund are animated, it may well be doubted whether their paying enthusiasm promises well for the future of the country. It looks too much like that nervous and impatient irritability, which characterizes the French people and disqualifies them for self-government. As we have already intimated, French delight in theatrical display is also no insignificant element in their feverish eagerness to pay the debt, the desire to astonish the world with a novel and completely unlooked for spectacle of which the entire credit would be French. From whatever motives, some advocates of prompt payment by spontaneous subscriptions, are so full of the scheme as to forget all economical considerations and all thought of prudence and policy, and denounce as "Platonic patriots" all those who oppose the measure. They are indignant that Thiers and the members of the Assembly do not appropriate their entire salaries, and that millionaires do not impoverish themselves for the instantaneous deliverance of France. In all such views here is more passion than sense or reason, and more impatience under the inevitable than wise or thoughtful application of the lessons taught by calamity. The National Assembly, while not discouraging the subscription scheme, very properly refused to take charge of it as a Government measure. Indeed, there is reason to believe that the Government does not wish the plan to succeed, and does not wish the German occupation to cease entirely for a while yet, and in the delay of payment where so large an amount of money is involved, there are economical advantages which France in its embarrassed state cannot afford to sacrifice, if it were possible, in deference to the dictates of impatience under wounded sensibility. Another consideration not without weight is the fact that in the proposed mode of payment by voluntary subscription the entire contribution would come from certain classes, while other classes would give nothing. When so much money is concerned, whatever patriotism or generosity may prompt, prudence suggests the application of general rules to the distribution of the burden among the entire population.

The passage of the Local Option bill by the Lower House received due mention in the Commercial two or three days ago. As journalists it is our painful duty to state that this much discussed statute, which is regarded by many most worthy citizens as embodying quintessential legislative wisdom, does not command universal admiration and approval. Some of our readers will doutlessly be surprised to learn, that at least one Pittsburgh newspaper, the *Volksblatt*, mentions the bill with the utmost irreverence, as a law framed, not in the interest of real temperance, that is, moderation resting on moral grounds, but rather in the interest of temperance enforced by the police, a virtue which, in the opinion of our contemporary, goes hand in hand with secret vice. The *Volksblatt* maintains that the application of legislation to questions of private life is a radical mistake. Even the right of voting, it seems, has certain limits which may not be overstepped without converting the republican form of government into an instrument of oppression, even as there are certain fundamental rights which are established and recognized once for all, and which may not be handed over for regulation to the accidents and fluctuations of periodical popular elections. One of these rights is the liberty of trade, which is threatened by the Local Option Bill. Let the smallest majority in any county decide against granting license for the retail or wholesale of spirituous drinks, and not only tavern-keepers but wine and liquor merchants, distillers and brewers are injured in their business. Another fundamental right, it seems, is the right which every one possesses to regulate his own dress, eating and drinking. And hence when legislation presumes to prescribe what people shall or shall not drink, it encroaches upon forbidden ground and meddles with matters which it has no right to touch. This is the substance of the *Volksblatt's* argument against the bill, which we report merely as a matter of news. Without attempting anything in the way of reply, we may remark that as the Local Option Law refers the subject of license absolutely to the people, it is perhaps rather injudicious and certainly presumptuous to doubt about the wisdom with which the question of license or no license will be decided in any particular instance. Wisdom, we believe, always dwells with the majority in this country. Right, too, is commonly supposed to rest with the people, and everybody knows well what cheerfulness and general goodwill prevail in cities of the republic accept the popular judgment in any case, however much it may conflict with their own. The old couplet—"The people's voice is odd, it is and it is not the voice of God"—is just as far wrong as it is right.

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Whom Will the Country Have for President Rather Than General Grant?

(From the New York Times, March 27th.)

Those who are so bitterly opposed to General Grant's re-election are bound, now that the year is advancing, to tell us something about their own candidates for the Presidency. We can, of course, well understand what Mr. Greeley's supporters would like to do, if they could wish elevated to the Presidential chair. That fever which periodically attacks "noble minds" in this country, and substitutes the dreams of delirium for the realities of life, has unquestionably smitten this venerable editor.

But suppose that the malcontent Republican indicates Mr. Sumner as the possible candidate in opposition to General Grant. Now we have the highest possible standard for Mr. Sumner's character, honesty, and purposes. But is he precisely the kind of a man to place at the head of a great Government? An idea seems to drive him on like a whip, until he passes all bounds of prudence or wisdom. As a reformer, an agitator, or a leader of opposition Mr. Sumner is invaluable, and we trust will long be spared to the Republic; as a President he would be worse than useless.

Mr. Trumbull's name may be introduced as that of a good opposition candidate. Mr. Trumbull was possessed of ability and patriotic man; but what has he done to rank him above the great General of our civil war, and the President who has carried the country on so successful sixes? The people can never forget that when we had tried one General after another, and they had failed, and our national cause seemed all but lost, and to all foreign observers it appeared inevitable that the great Republic must be broken to fragments, then came first the inspiring news of Donelson and then the glorious capture of Vicksburg and the victory of Chattanooga; then the long, patient, untiring and finally successful struggle in the Virginia Valley, and the leader behind whom victory and peace followed was he whom now the nation are asked to set aside for a "scratch" candidate.

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Is there anything in the past or present life of Mr. Trumbull, or Mr. Schurz, or any other leader of the opposition, to show that they could not fall into the old corrupt modern (which we have always denounced) of putting men into public place for party service, if the opportunity were afforded them? Whom would the country rather have in the President's chair than Gen. Grant?

VELOCITY OF ELECTRICITY.

New Method Proposed for Accurate Measurement.

The following paper on the "Velocity of Electricity" was read before the "Society of Natural Sciences of Western Pennsylvania," by George A. Hamilton, of Pittsburgh, Electrician to the "Atlantic and Pacific Telegraph Company," and has been furnished us for publication, as a matter of much interest to electricians and scientists generally:

The very different results obtained by different investigations for the velocity of electricity has always appeared somewhat singular, to say the least, that is, when having regard to the figures in themselves only. A little consideration, however, will, I think, clear the mystery and enable us to assign a cause for the apparent anomaly, perhaps even be suggestive of a remedy; but that we may the more intelligently consider the relative results and get a fuller comprehension of their significance, let us first present some of the figures.

Thus: Wheatstone's original experiment with static electricity indicated a velocity of 288,000 miles per second; measurements of the Coast Survey Service, in 1849, gave 16,000 miles per second as a maximum velocity, though a rate as low as 11,000 miles was observed. In 1850 Messrs. Fizean and Grannelle undertook a new determination, their results giving, with iron wire of 4½ mm. section, a velocity of 63,000 miles, and, with copper wire of 2¼ mm. section, a velocity of 117,000 miles per second, whilst later measurements of the Coast Survey in 1868 make the velocity about 20,000 or 21,000 miles per second. To the foregoing we might add, too, Prof. Gould's experiments with the Atlantic cable, which give a velocity between 7,000 and 8,000 miles.

Now, these figures, given at random from a variety of sources, are our present evaluations for the velocity of electricity, and I think you will agree with me in saying that they don't present us with a very definite idea of the subject we are considering. What, then, is the cause of this wide disagreement? Is it the result of carelessness? No; we would hesitate to say that, and yet we believe an important feature of the varying conditions under which many of these experiments were conducted has barely received its full consideration even, if not altogether overlooked.

But let us carry our investigation further. As in cables the retardation due to static induction has already received pretty general attention, and its values capable of being determined, since we are acquainted with the laws of its action, we will pass to another factor in the result, one which, though often alluded to, has, so far as I am aware, received no definite value. We call this factor resistance, and that it has an important bearing upon the result we are led to believe from analogy. If, with a definite amount of steam, we can propel a locomotive a certain distance with a given velocity, manifestly the velocity will be reduced if, without increasing the motive power, we attach a train, for a part of the way, that will be speed-retarding the additional resistance; so with electricity, the velocity will suffer retardation unless we find means to increase the force with respect to the various retardative influences. Now it is accepted as a postulate in electrical science that neither the nature nor the number of elements in a battery considered as a whole, consequently neither the tension nor the quantity of current, affect the velocity, and, as this in this case is our motive power, we see there remain no means for increasing its initial effects.

We must eliminate the affecting quantities if we would arrive at a definite result regarding velocity, and the apparatus I will first sight might be called a novel idea, the expression of velocity in an absolute term; but, this need not trouble us, as we have a very independent handy, even in electro-dynamics. This, then, it seems, should be the real object of search, and it has appeared to me that we can best reproduce the conditions under which, in unit of time, through a conductor conceived to be perfectly insulated and absolutely free from resistance, a definite quantity of electricity as we believe, the main causes of disagreement. If others exist, continued investigation would render them observable, when means could doubtless soon be found to successively eliminate them.

Having now indicated what I apprehend to be the true base, or starting point, there remains yet to consider the means of its realization, and two methods present themselves: the first though possible by the use of electromagnetic devices, is attended by difficulties not to be counted in; while if an avoidance of the whole issue is agreed on, the people of the country will at once see through the insincere sham, and spurn the pie-bald hypocrisy as it deserves. Alkalis and acids have no affinity for each other in chemistry. Have they in politics?

Referring to the unabated progress of the Persian famine, and to the imminent danger in which that afflicted nation stands of absolute extinction from the face of the earth, the Detroit *Post* makes a good point by showing how the protective system, by diversifying industry, invention and employment, has produced such a complete and rounded development of the whole national economy as enables the deficiencies of one locality to be replaced by the excess of another—to that extent guarding against the possibility of famine. The illustration is a good one, but there might have gone still further, and have shown how, while in old times the immense manufacturing industry of Persia made it one of the richest countries of the East, yet in consequence of English free trade, the great caravans of fine goods formerly made by the Persians have been overwhelmed by cheap British supplies, and the people now compelled to devote themselves almost exclusively to agricultural pursuits, which, when the terrible drought came, left them not only starving, but without money or credit to purchase supplies from other countries with which they held intercourse. Suppose England should get such full control of our markets as to repress our manufactures to the point at which we have always denounced) of putting men into public place for party service, if the opportunity were afforded them? Whom would the country rather have in the President's chair than Gen. Grant?

A distinguished German physician states that small-pox originates from the excess of albuminous matter in the blood, and that this is to be prevented by the administration of common salt. The habits of children in indulging over-freely in sweetmeats he considered one great cause of this undue developement of albumen, and coffee and tea, if highly sugared, tend also to excite it in adults. An organic acid, such as lemon juice, he considers the best means of freeing the blooding, when clogged up with too much albumen, and he alleges that by taking these simple remedies in the way of precaution, he has for upwards of twelve years past, frequented or taken up his apode in the most pestilential small-pox hospitals of Europe and South America with entire impunity. The means of prevention appear certainly somewhat simple: but they may be worthy of investigation by some of our medical boards, as if they do no good, they certainly cannot be productive of harm.

The Commercial was opposed to the annexation scheme, as were the people themselves, but it never believed the Executive to be guilty of the impropriety attributed to him. In this connection it may be observed that fourteen Congressional committees have been or are still engaged in making governmental investigations of one kind or another, not one of which has yet succeeded in fastening a single charge upon the President. Considering that the fierce light which beats upon his place, reveals every blemish and blot, this result is something of which those who elected him have a right to be proud.

Very little credence is to be placed in the current rumors concerning Senator Sumner's alleged sympathy with the Cincinnati movement. He has of late again and again contradicted the fabricated accounts of unscrupulous correspondents respecting his views and opinions, his last authoritative utterance being an emphatic declaration that everybody might be sure he should never "play into the hands of the Democratic party, or support any ticket which directly or indirectly restored them to power again." The personal differences of the Senator with the Executive do not warrant the statement that he designs to desert the party which is the representative of those elevated ideas and policies of liberty and justice, to the growth and advancement of which his life has been so continuously devoted. There are, perhaps, some things in his course which are to be regretted, but so there are in the lives of all public men. He has rendered no fundamental mistake. Even the right of voting, it seems, has certain limits which may not be overstepped without converting the republican form of government into an instrument of oppression, even as there are certain fundamental rights which are established and recognized once for all, and which may not be handed over for regulation to the accidents and fluctuations of periodical popular elections. One of these rights is the liberty of trade, which is threatened by the Local Option Bill. Let the smallest majority in any county decide against granting license for the retail or wholesale of spirituous drinks, and not only tavern-keepers but wine and liquor merchants, distillers and brewers are injured in their business. Another fundamental right, it seems, is the right which every one possesses to regulate his own dress, eating and drinking. And hence when legislation presumes to prescribe what people shall or shall not drink, it encroaches upon forbidden ground and meddles with matters which it has no right to touch. This is the substance of the *Volksblatt's* argument against the bill, which we report merely as a matter of news. Without attempting anything in the way of reply, we may remark that as the Local Option Law refers the subject of license absolutely to the people, it is perhaps rather injudicious and certainly presumptuous to doubt about the wisdom with which the question of license or no license will be decided in any particular instance. Wisdom, we believe, always dwells with the majority in this country. Right, too, is commonly supposed to rest with the people, and everybody knows well what cheerfulness and general goodwill prevail in cities of the republic accept the popular judgment in any case, however much it may conflict with their own. The old couplet—"The people's voice is odd, it is and it is not the voice of God"—is just as far wrong as it is right.

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Tribune.

MURDER WILL OUT.

A Berks County Drover Murdered in Union County Thirty Years Ago—Deathbed Confession of One of His Slayers.

The Lewisburg *Journal* of last week contains the following:

No doubt many of our readers will remember a rumor which was in circulation some thirty years ago, that a man traveling on horseback through Penns Valley Narrows had been foully dealt with. The rumor was based upon the fact that the body of a horse was found some twenty rods from the pike, which had apparently been knocked down with a cudgel and killed. The horse was found several days after he was killed by some boys who were out gunning. Other circumstances connected with the affair caused a great deal of excitement in the neighborhood. Some half a dozen citizens were soon after summoned to the spot, who reported that the case required a thorough investigation. A call was made upon the citizens *en masse*, and a day appointed to make search for the body of the man supposed to have been murdered.

On the day appointed, a number of men from Center and Union counties repaired to the spot where the horse was found, and set out in squads through the woods, and searched all day diligently, but found nothing. They then concluded that if there were any grounds for their suspicions, and that a man had really been murdered, his body must have been sunk in a saw-mill dam close by. Another day was then appointed to let the water out of the dam.

On the night before the day fixed upon to let off the water, forgotten were enemies by some unknown parties and the water let out. The feelings of the searching parties can only be imagined when the next day they found things in such a condition. Those who had given the matter very little thought and had ridiculed the idea of there being any cause for such apprehensions, let once changed their minds, and the excitement became intense. Search was, however, made in the mill dam, when fresh tracks were found that had no doubt been made the previous night by parties who had been wading through the mud, but no further developments were brought to light.

Various rumors were in circulation. Several parties were implicated in the crime, but, as in most cases of this kind, the rumors were mostly, if not all, unfounded, and the occurrence was seemingly forgotten.

Some ten years ago, however, it was published in the newspapers in certain localities in this State that a man, who had been a former resident of Union county, had confessed upon his deathbed that he was one of a party who had murdered a man in Penns Valley Narrows some twenty years previous to the time. This news created some little excitement at the time, but it soon also died out.

Within the last few days, rumor has it that a certain party who came to this West from the upper end of the county many years since, had lately died, and had confessed at his dying hour that he was one of a party who committed the Penns Valley Narrows murder, some thirty years ago, and had implicated three others. That they played cards (with the man after wards killed) at the

The Pittsburgh Commercial: Saturday, March 30, 1872.

POLITICAL.

Ohio Republican State Convention.

Preference Expressed for Grant and Dennison, as Candidates for President and Vice President.

COLUMBUS, March 27.—The Republican State Convention assembled in the Opera House at eleven o'clock this morning. A very large number of delegates were in attendance, in addition to a large number of spectators. The convention was called to order by Gen. James S. Robinson, Chairman of the State Central Committee, who introduced Hon. Alphonso Hart as temporary chairman. Mr. Hart made a brief speech, in which he claimed that the Republican party stood on a better footing to-day than ever before, and having been tried in peace and war, were ready to again proceed to victory. In his opinion, by proper work Ohio could be carried by the Republicans this fall by sixty thousand. Four years ago the Republican party had promised to do certain things, and in no case had they fallen short of aught they had promised. He said, another would they this time. Hon. S. N. Titus, of Meigs county, was chosen temporary Secretary. After selecting committees, the convention took a recess until two P. M.

The Convention re-assembled at two o'clock. The Committee on permanent organization reported for permanent President, John C. Lee, of Lucas, with Vice Presidents from each district; Isaac Buckingham, of Cuyahoga, for Secretary. Gen. Lee, on taking the chair, made a strong speech in favor of Grant's administration and was warmly applauded. Capt. A. T. Wickoff was nominated for Secretary of State on the first ballot, and the nomination made unanimous. John Welsch, of Athens, was nominated for Judge of the Supreme Court, and R. R. Porter for member of the Board of Public Works.

A motion made to nominate a candidate at large was strongly objected to, on the ground that if this nomination was made it would have a strong tendency to defeat any plan for redistricting the State into Congressional districts. The motion was laid on the table by a heavy vote.

Lieutenant Governor Muller, of Cuyahoga, Samuel Creighead, of Montgomery, Henry Wessel, of Hamilton, and Mr. Gruber, colored, of Lucas, were chosen delegates at large from Ohio to the National Republican Convention to Philadelphia; and W. A. Wolden, of Jefferson, Gen. Thomas Ewing, Hon. Ling, Dr. Titus, of Meigs, and Daniel Sweigert, of Crawford, were chosen delegates to Philadelphia Convention; Hon. John C. Lee, of Lucas, and Hon. Alphonsa Hart, of Portage, were chosen Senatorial Delegates for President and Vice President by acclamation.

The committee on resolutions reported the following platform, which was adopted with cheers:

The Republicans of Ohio, in State Convention assembled, make the following declaration:

First. The Republican party of the United States had its origin in the necessities of the nation, and since it came into power has decreed and executed measures by which liberty has been preserved and the Union saved from dismemberment and overthrow. Amid disorganization and confusion existing at the close of the rebellion the Republican party exercised its organizing and restoring power, and has succeeded in the difficult task of complete reconstruction, and has established freedom and equal rights for all people by irrevocable guarantees. In this work the Republican party has shown its wisdom and patriotism, and by its unswerving good faith toward the national creditors it has vindicated national integrity and honor.

Second. No other party known to history has so grand a record, and no other party in the United States can so proudly challenge the continued confidence of the people, and we declare that the good of the country demands that the Republican party should continue to administer the government.

Third. We renew our expressions of confidence in the administration of the general government. Since it came into power the taxes upon the people have been reduced and the public revenues have been carefully collected and honestly applied, so that while the burden of taxation has been lightened, the public debt has been diminished both in amount of principal and in rate of interest. The Administration has also the earnest approval of every friend of justice, order and law for the prompt and efficient manner in which it has suppressed Ku-klux disorders and persecutions of loyal citizens in the South, a protection due from every good government to its people. And we refer with great satisfaction to the success of the system of pensions and bounties provided for our brave soldiers and sailors, and homes founded and maintained for such as were disabled in the service of their country. These manifestations of public gratitude and justice must command the approval of every patriot. And we commend the policy of fairness and kindness toward the Indian tribes as showing the wisdom and humanity of the President; and in his efforts to reform the Civil Service we recognize a laudable desire to secure efficiency and purity. In the management of our foreign relations, including important questions of international law involved in the treaty of Washington, the Administration has shown wisdom, courage and dignity, and has maintained the honor of the nation unsullied.

Fourth. A large portion of the revenue necessary to defray the current expenses of the government must be derived from duties upon imports. These duties should be levied with a view to equalize their burdens and benefits among the people, and so as to promote as far as possible the interests of every section and branch of industry, and so that labor of every kind may have constant employment and just reward.

Fifth. We are opposed to further grants of the public lands to corporations and monopolies, and demand that the national domain be set apart for homes for the people and for purposes of education.

Sixth. As there can be no productive industry without a union of capital and labor, therefore we are in favor of such legislation as will give all proper guarantees for the safety and prosperity of the one and remunerative investment of the other.

Seventh. We have unbroken confidence in the integrity, prudence and patriotism of President Grant, and are in favor of his renomination for a second term, and we present to the Republican party for nomination for Vice President of the United States the name of Ohio's first war Governor, Hon. William Dennison, a man eminently worthy of that high office.

The Convention then adjourned. This evening in large crowds assembled at Neil House to listen to a speech from Hon. John A. Bingham.

The State Central Committee met this afternoon, and organized by the election of J. D. Harrison as Chairman, Sidney Faus as Secretary, and J. B. Neil as Treasurer. W. T. Wilson, A. T. Wickoff, S. Medary, Jr., and Alvin Williams were chosen as an Executive Committee, with G. H. Otis and W. H. Hunt, of Washington, D. C., as advisory members.

New Jersey Indorses Grant.

TRENTON, N. J., March 27.—In the House resolutions approving the administration of President Grant, and commending his policy in various questions that have been before the public, also indorsing the Treaty of Washington, were debated about two hours, and finally passed by a vote of thirty-two to twenty-one.

Iowa State Republican Convention—Delegates Instructed for Grant and Wilson.

DES MOINES, Iowa, March 27.—The Republican State Convention held in this city to-day, to select delegates to the National Republican Convention at Philadelphia, was one of the largest and most enthusiastic conventions ever held in this State. The delegates selected were Gen. G. M. Dodge, A. Clark, J. W. Card and W. H. Severs, from the State at large, and three from each Congressional District, consisting of, First District, C. W. Slagle, Norman Everson, S. M. Clark; Second District, John Green, Sylvanus Gates, S. L. Baker; Third District, Wm. H. Andever, Andy Felt and August Beadle; Fourth District, H. G. Little, H. S. Winstour, Gen. J. B. Drake; Fifth District, J. B. McIntyre, Col. Wm. Thompson, Major Anderson; Sixth District, Isaac Pendleton, S. Williams. P. C. Conger. Three alternates were also selected from each Congressional District.

The following resolutions were adopted with but one or two dissenting votes:

Resolved, That we heartily indorse the administration of U. S. Grant, in the enforcement of the laws, faithful collection of revenue, reduction of the public debt and strengthening of the national credit, and that we believe with him that a President should have no policy to enforce against the will of the people, and our delegates to the National Convention are hereby instructed to vote for him as their most earnest endeavors to secure his renomination.

Resolved, That recognizing in Jas. F. Wilson, our eminent citizen of Iowa, all qualifications as an able, upright and pure-minded statesman, we hereby instruct the delegates selected by this Convention to vote for his nomination for the Vice Presidency and to exert every just effort to secure it.

A NAVAL BATTLE LIKELY.

The Blockade-Runner Virginius and the Spanish War Steamer Pizarro Preparing for a Fight

JAMAICA, March 26, *via* HAVANA, March 27.—The steamer Elba, which has arrived from Aspinwall, reports that things were coming to a crisis between the blockade-runner Virginius and the Spanish war steamer Pizarro. A naval engagement was imminent. The Elba left the harbor. Both vessels had steam up, guns in position, and everything ready for the conflict which then Captains seemed resolved upon. Gen. Quesada was instigating the mischief. The Government was inactive, and the Spaniards were very indignant. The Spanish man-of-war Fornado was entering the harbor as the Elba sailed.

HAVANA, March 27.—Spanish naval officers here ridicule the report of the blockade-runner Virginius showing fight in the harbor of Aspinwall. They say she is only trying to make her escape.

Revolutionists Again Defeated in Mexico—The Leaders Leaving the Country.

CITY OF MEXICO, March 17, *via* HAVANA, March 26.—Manuel Asperas has left the capital for the United States for the purpose of occupying a seat in the mixed commission in session in Washington.

The government troops attacked and defeated, after a fight of six hours, the insurgents in the State of Tabasco. The revolution in Tabasco is considered over, all the leaders having fled.

Porfirio Diaz is reported to have gone to New York, and other leaders of the insurrection are said to have gone to Northern Mexico by steamer from Vera Cruz to Havana, and thence to New Orleans, where they again sailed for Brazos Santiago.

LANDS FOR SOLDIERS.

PROVISIONS OF THE NEW HOMESTEAD LAW.

A Farm for Every Soldier. Sailor and Marine.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 27, 1872.

The inquiries concerning the exact terms of the soldiers homestead bill are very numerous from all quarters. As it goes to the President for signature, it provides that every officer or soldier, seaman or marine, who served during the rebellion and was honorably discharged, shall, on compliance with the homestead act, receive a patent for one hundred and sixty acres of public lands, not mineral, including the alternate reserved sections of public lands along the line of any railroad or other public work; provided, that said homestead settler shall be allowed six months after locating his homestead within which to commence his settlement and improvement, and provided also, that the time which the homestead settler shall have served in the army, navy or marine corps aforesaid shall be deducted from the time hereafore required to perfect the title, or if discharged on account of wounds received or disability incurred in the line of duty, then the term of enlistment shall be deducted from the time therefore required to perfect the title, without reference to the length of time he may have served; provided, however, that no patent shall issue to any homestead settler who has not resided upon, improved and cultivated his said homestead for a period of at least one year after he shall commence his improvements any one entitled to enter under this act, and who has heretofore entered less than one hundred and sixty acres under the homestead act, may enter enough under the present act to make 160 in all. If any person entitled to the provisions of this act has died, his widow, if unmarried, or in case of her death or marriage, then his minor orphan children, by guardian duly appointed, shall be entitled to all the benefits of the act. If any previous entry under the Homestead act has lapsed by reason of absence of the preemptor in the army or navy, the entry shall be restored. Any soldier, sailor, marine, officer or other person coming within the provisions of this act may, as well by an agent as in person, enter upon said homestead, provided that said claimant in person shall within the time prescribed commence settlement and improvements on the same, and therefore fulfill all the requirements of this act. The Commissioner of the General Land Office is to make all needful rules to carry the act into effect.

ENGLAND AND ERIE.

Rejoicing Over the Downfall of Gould.

NEW YORK, March 27.—The London *Telegraph* of the 14th has the following: Excellent tidings for Englishmen who invested money in the Erie Railway have come from New York. Gould, the accomplice of Fisk in all his wicked schemes, has been removed from the Presidency of the company, and General Dix a man of station and character, has been appointed in his place, with five other new and honest directors, among whom are General McClellan. We are glad to see that this was the reform proposed by what is called the English party, for our countrymen across the Atlantic have no object save to see that justice is done. The following is from the Erie Shareholders' Protection Committee:

To the Editor of the Daily Telegraph:

SIR,—The committee have seen a circular issued to the stockholders of the Erie Railway Company by Messrs. Bischoffstein, E. H. Green, G. Homan, A. De Laski and and J. Stewart. The only desire of my committee has been and is to see a board of directors established in power which shall insure substantial justice to all shareholders, and offer a safeguard for the future. Whilst fully recognizing the desirability of unitedaction on the part of all English shareholders for this purpose, my committee think it right to point that the new committee formed by the above gentlemen is entirely self-constituted, and it is impossible to say at present how far they will be acceptable to the American shareholders. An influential American committee, representing a very large American interest, has for a considerable time been organized and working in complete harmony with my committee. My committee have telegraphed to their agent at New York to ascertain the views of this American committee as to the proposed new direction, and the reply will be communicated to the shareholders at the earliest possible moment. I am, Sir, your obedient servant, [Signed] W. A. MICHAELS, Secretary.

Preparations for the State Fair at Mansfield, Ohio.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

MANSFIELD, O., March 27, 1872.

J. Buckingham, Governor of Ohio, President; H. Klippart, of Columbus, Corresponding Secretary; J. G. Delano, of Chillicothe, R. P. Cannon, of Aurora, W. S. Hickox, and other members and attaches of the State Board of Agriculture, are in the city to-day examining the grounds for the State Fair, staking off sites for buildings, and making other arrangements for the exhibition in September.

Engine House of the Misgo Iron Works Burned.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

STEUBENVILLE, O., March 26, 1872.

The engine house at Misgo Iron Works, at Mingo Junction, was partially destroyed by fire this morning. The engine and machinery were but slightly damaged, and the works will not be stopped.

Coal Miner's Strike.

YOUNGSTOWN, O., March 26.—The coal miners of Shenango, Mahoning and Tuscarawas Valleys have served notice of an intention to strike for twenty cents more a ton after April first.

CONSOLIDATION.

The Total Vote on the Question.

That the consolidation of the South Side boroughs with Pittsburgh is not yet a "dead letter" is evident from the fact that a new effort is to be made to accomplish the desired end. The total vote at the recent election on the consolidation question was as follows in the several boroughs:

Boroughs.	For.	Against.	Pop'tion.
Ormsby	160	45	2,225
East Birmingham	382	418	9,488
Birmingham	225	255	5,693
Mount Washington	129	48	1,988
Monongahela	61	25	1,153
West Pittsburgh	28	40	2,095
Temperanceville	91	4	2,069
South Pittsburgh	126	103	5,095
Total	1,389	1,268	30,716

Majority for consolidation 61

The friends of consolidation maintain that the majority of the people of the South Side are decidedly in favor of the movement, as expressed by the vote given above, and that an act of Assembly declaring the boroughs a portion of Pittsburgh will be passed before the adjournment of the Legislature is not at all improbable. The matter is of great importance to all concerned, particularly the people of the South Side, who, it is presumed, will be wide-awake to their best interests, and see that no effort is neglected which might tend to the formation of a consolidated city, which consummation would be for the best interests of the boroughs.

If the vote quoted was taken in 1868; the borough did not vote on consolidation at the late election.)

RAILROAD ROBBERIES.

A Thief Operates on the Pennsylvania Central Railroad—A Big Haul Made.

Some heavy robberies were committed in a sleeping coach on the Pennsylvania Central Railroad at an early hour yesterday morning. The sleeping car in which the robbery in question was attached, left New York at 8:30 on Monday night. Among the passengers were Mr. and Mrs. Alex. Evans, Dr. and Mrs. Leauth of this city. Shortly before the train reached Altoona, for breakfast, the gentlemen mentioned discovered that they had been robbed. Mrs. Evans lost her diamond studs which were taken out of his shirt bosom and which were valued at some $900. Also $80 in cash and a revolver. Mr. Lauth had stolen from him his gold watch, valued at $375, and cash to the amount of $70. A German gentleman in the same car was relieved of his pocket book containing about $50 in currency and gold. On the discovery of the robberies the car was searched, but none of the stolen property was recovered. It was supposed that the thief operated between Harrisburg, and left the train at that point. There have been no arrests.

NOTE RAISING.

Before Alderman McMasters.

Tuesday afternoon, Geo. W. Grubbs, before Alderman McMasters, charged L. T. Armhurst, a grocery merchant, at Turtle Creek, with forgery. Mr. Grubbs alleged that he was a coal dealer, and in his book account with the defendant, on the first of April, 1871, he alleges that he squared accounts with Mr. Armhurst, paying a certain amount in cash and giving his note for $35, for the balance due. Soon after this settlement, Mr. Grubbs found that he called on Mr. Armhurst and desired to get his note of $35. The latter could not find it but took the value thereof, $20, in cash and gave the same. Several months afterwards the note turned up again, having, as alleged, in the information sworn to before the original amount to forty-five dollars. Payment was sued for and judgment obtained against the drawer of the note, who then, Mr. Grubbs alleges, forged and fraudulently altering the note. The hearing of the case it is most probable that another side to the matter will be discovered. A warrant was signed.

To Take the Rostrum Again.

Mr. D. I. K. Rine has in course of preparation a lecture on his recent painful experiences, which he expects to deliver in this city in the course of a few days. Judging from a hasty reading of portions of it, we can safely promise a most interesting discourse. Humbly acknowledging his faults, he desires an impartial hearing from Christian men and women, hoping to regain their confidence, and through it their help and encouragement in living a life free from guile. In his address Mr. Rine gives the leading incidents of his troubles in Chicago, in prison and out, some of them funny, but others quite the reverse, and from all hopes to inculcate many useful lessons. Due notice of the time of the lecture will be given.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, March 27, 1872.

The discount lines of our banks and brokers are well taken up, and paper not of the highest grade is hard to place, even at extreme rates. As the day for quarterly settlements is near at hand, an easing up may soon be looked for, although no plethora is expected. Local stocks are firmly held, with but few sales reported.

—A great number of extraordinary stories are related of the sudden fortunes acquired by various people, in consequence of the remarkable rise in Erie stock during the past few days. One lucky speculator, it seems, was a New York telegraph office messenger boy. Last Saturday he persuaded a gentleman to advance him some money, which he invested in Erie. On Monday he sold out at a profit of $1,500. A gentleman who sailed for Havana last week bought 1,000 shares of Erie before his departure. Tuesday he telegraphed by cable to his broker to sell out, clearing $25,000. It was rumored also that a country store-keeper in a town on the Hudson had netted $31,000 on an investment in Erie. A number of clerks and book-keepers who had saved a little money also seized the opportunity to purchase a few hundred shares on a slender margin, and sold out at a profit of ten to twelve per cent., well satisfied with that, although friends were found in abundance who advised holding on. Nothing, it is said, could be heard in the neighborhood of Wall and Broad on Monday, except how everybody was getting rich. It was black Friday golden reversed.

—Messrs. Ira B. McVay & Co. report the following quotations of Government bonds in New York to-day, as furnished them by Jay Cooke & Co., their correspondents:

	Morning.	Noon.	Evening
U. S. Bonds of 1881	115¾	115¾	115¾
U. S. Bonds of 1862	111¾	112	112
U. S. Bonds of 1864	111¾	112¼	112¼
U. S. Bonds of 1865	112¾	112¾	112¾
U. S. Bonds of 1865 (new)	111	111	111¼
U. S. Bonds of 1867	112¾	112¾	112¾
U. S. Bonds of 1868	112¾	112¾	112¾
10-40s	108	108¼	108¼
New 5s	109¾	109¾	109¾
Gold	110¾	110¾	110¾
Currency 6s	115¾	115¾	115¾

—James T. Brady & Co., corner of Fourth avenue and Wood street, quote United States securities in New York to-day as follows:

Gold	110¾	110	110¾	110¾	110¾
Quotations		72¾	72¾	73¾	73¾
Western Union Tel		72¾	72¾	73¾	73¾
Quicksilver		23	23	23	23
Pacific Mail		65¾	65¾	65¾	65¾
Adams Express		78		78	
Wells Fargo Ex		70	73¾		73¾
American Express		50	50	50	50
United States Ex		70		74¾	
New York Central		93¾	94¾	94¾	94¾
N. Y. Central scrip		90			
Erie		25¾	25¾	25¾	25¾
Reading		114¾	113¾	114	
Michigan Central		94		94	
Michigan Southern		93	93¾	93¾	94¾
Illinois Central		140		140	
Cleveland & Pitts		91¾	92		92
Chicago & Rock Isl		99¾	99¾	99¾	99¾
Do. preferred		94	94		
Pittsburgh & Ft. W		113½	113½	113½	113½
St. Paul		42¾	42¾	42¾	
Do. preferred		67			
Do. new		67			
South Carolina, July		39¾		39¾	
South Carolina, April		39¾		39¾	
Missouri sixes		95		95	

	10:30 A.M.	11:30 A.M.	12:30 P.M.	1:30 P.M.	2:30 P.M.	3:30 P.M.
March 27, 1872.						
Gold	110¾	110	110¾	110¾	110¾	110¾
Quotations		72¾	72¾	73¾	73¾	
Western Union Tel		72¾	72¾	73¾	73¾	
Quicksilver		23	23	23	23	
Pacific Mail		65¾	65¾	65¾	65¾	64
Adams Express		78		78		
Wells Fargo Ex		70	73¾		73¾	
American Express		50	50	50	50	
United States Ex		70		74¾		
New York Central		93¾	94¾		94¾	94¾
N. Y. Central scrip		90				
Erie		25¾	25¾	25¾	25¾	25¾
Reading		114¾	113¾	114		
Michigan Central		94		94		
Michigan Southern		93	93¾	93¾	94¾	94¾
Illinois Central		140		140		
Cleveland & Pitts		91¾	92		92	
Chicago & Rock Isl		99¾	99¾	99¾	99¾	
Do. preferred		94	94			
Pittsburgh & Ft. W		113½	113½	113½	113½	113½
St. Paul		42¾	42¾	42¾		
Do. preferred		67				
Do. new		67				
South Carolina, July		39¾		39¾		
South Carolina, April		39¾		39¾		
Missouri sixes		95		95		

	11:30 A.M.	2:30 P.M.
Tennessee State bonds	67	67
Do. new	67	67
South Carolina, July	39¾	39¾
South Carolina, April	39¾	39¾
Missouri sixes	95	95

—Messrs. Bowen & Fox, brokers and members of the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, furnish the following quotations of the closing prices to-day of the most active stocks:

Penna Central	69¾	Lehigh Valley R. R.	65¾
Erie	28	North Penn'a R. R.	50¾
Lehigh Navigation	43¾	Camden and Amboy	120
Catawissa	20¾	Lehigh Navigation	56¼
Oil Creek & Alley'n.	58¾	Reading	57¾

COFFEE MARKETS.

NEW YORK.

March 23.—The long continued stagnation in the market for Brazil has been somewhat disturbed by the arrival of the steamer Merrimack with 5,933 bags and before a couple of days later. Her circular advices, both from Rio and Santos, are detailed in another column. Simultaneous with these accounts, we have reports of considerable sales of Rio in the Southern markets, in anticipation of the spring trade, soon expected; and though the tariff question is still unsettled, and business with the interior has but slightly increased, there is evidently a little more feeling of confidence in our quotations, which we do no vary, are considered by some as rather below than above present market rates. It may be remarked, as a further evidence that notwithstanding our large stock, a very large proportion of the good and better qualities is held by one or two houses. The whole of 1872 so far having witnessed little else than a downward market, the opening of spring is looked for by dealers for a large distributive demand to the country, which is known to hold light stocks. Stocks on the seaboard are light, and are probably ample for any emergency. We quote Rio, good, in bond:

Ordinary cargoes	14½@15 cents.
Fair cargoes	15¼@15¾ "
Good cargoes	15¾@16¼ "
Prime cargoes	16¾@17 "

On a credit of 60 to 90 days. The sales here are 625 bags Rio per Merrimack at 15¾@16c; and 199 by other vessels, 16¾@16¾, gold, in bond. The sales elsewhere include 11,000 bags by Southern mail; at Mobile; 5,506 per John Shay at New Orleans, the latter at 16½c; and 3,000 bags Rio per Eagle, on private terms; 3,850 per Frances Jane, 16c; 2,450, balance per Adelaide, 16c; and 2,200, a resale per Voltiguer, 16¾c; all gold, in bond.—*Shipping List.*

PHILADELPHIA.

March 23.—The coffee market is firmer, and there is more inquiry. Sales of 900 bags Rio at 15¾@20c, gold; 160 bags Laganya at 19¾c; 30 bags Maracaibo at 20½c; and 110 mats Java at 22¾@24½c, gold. A cargo of 5,000 bags Laguayra, destined for this port, was lost at sea.

Stock of Brazil coffee in the United States.

New York	134,441
Baltimore	42,139
Hampton Roads	16,445
Mobile	6,170
New Orleans	11,788
Total	212,983

—*Price Current.*

BALTIMORE.

MARCH 23.—We have to report a better inquiry for coffee within the past few days, and a somewhat firmer feeling in the market, though prices cannot be quoted higher than last week. The receipts of 3,500 bags Rio ex "Frances Jane," understood at 16 cents; 2,000 bags do ex "Adelaide," and 1,500 bags do ex "Grey Eagle," understood at 15¾c, all taken by a town jobber, and 3,200 bags do from second hands, chiefly to go west, at within our range of quotations. The quotations are as follows: Rio in bond for fair to good invoices, 16¾@16¾c for prime do, and duty paid as ranging from 18 to 20c, gold; Laguayra, 19¾@20c; Maracaibo, 20½c; Java, 22¾@24½c; Mocha, 28@30c; Singapore, 21@22c; Ceylon, 20@21c; Costa Rica, 19@20c; Jamaica, 20@21c; Cuba ordinary to prime, 15¾@16¾c; Porto Rico, 17@18c; Rio Grande, 17@18c; Mexican, 17@18c; Venezuela, 17@18c; Maracaibo, 18@19c; Laguayra, 18@19c; Java, mats, 22@24c; Java, Government, 24@25c; Mocha, 28@30c; Singapore, 21@22c; Ceylon, 20@21c; Costa Rica, 19@20c; Jamaica, 20@21c; Cuba, 15@16

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 1872.

TERMS.

One copy, per year.....$2 00
In clubs of twenty per year.....1 50
One copy gratis to the getter up of the club.

Wanted.

Copies of the following dates of the WEEKLY COMMERCIAL, to complete our file:

Two copies September 30, 1871.
Two copies October 1, 1871.

AND now the Cincinnati *Commercial* believes the chances of defeating Grant at Philadelphia "are not one in a hundred."

IT IS the deliberate opinion of the Cincinnati *Gazette* that the squabbles constantly going on between certain other leading papers of that city "have made Cincinnati journalism a by-word throughout the land."

THE combination of brewers, distillers and political demogogues which went to Springfield, Illinois, to lobby against the temperance law before the Legislature there, appear to have expended their trouble and money for nothing. There is little doubt of the measure being enacted.

THE Workingmen's millionaire, Judge DAVIS, has been admonished by a prominent member of the "International" that he must resign his hard-earned wealth if he expects the support of that Society. How harder is it for a rich man to squirm through a knot-hole than to enter the delightful republic of Communism!

A VERY general impression prevails that the new Constitution, under which Utah seeks admission as a State, provides for the abolishment of polygamy. The only passage in it, that can in any way be so construed, says no more than that "practices inconsistent with the peace or safety of the State are prohibited." How much that would amount to under Mormon interpretation is not worth reckoning.

CALIFORNIAN barriers of prejudice and exclusiveness are yielding to the process of law. The Supreme Court of that State has just decided that the levy of five dollars on every passenger who arrives there from a foreign port is unconstitutional and a direct infringement of the right of Congress to regulate commerce. This decision will open the doors wide for the heathen Chinee to enter in and bid defiance to the barbarous local laws which have heretofore proscribed him.

THE decision of the Secretary of the Treasury —reported among our special Washington dispatches—concerning the taxation of coupons on railroad and other interest bearing bonds which commenced to run before the expiration of the income tax, notwithstanding that the interest may not accrue until a later period, is a matter of general interest to persons holding these classes of bonds, at this time of making out income tax returns.

THE German press of Cincinnati does not take kindly to Judge DAVIS. Thus, the *Volksblatt*, referring to his chances at the Cincinnati Conference, thinks Senator TRUMBULL or CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS "might count ten votes where he would scarcely get one." The *Gazette*—German Revenue Reform Republican—irreverently styles Judge DAVIS the "so-called Workingmen's candidate, who has scarcely yet modified his Whig principles," and prefers ADAMS and GROESBECK or TRUMBULL and JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

The decision of Secretary ROBESON not to employ counsel during the investigation of the charges made against him, but to permit matters to take their own course, can hardly fail to strengthen the popular belief in his innocence. This decision is also understood to fully accord with the preference of the President concerning the matter; who holds that the best course which any accused officer, conscious of his integrity, can pursue, is to waive all technicalities in his favor and give the accuser the fullest possible swing.

NO NEW illustration was needed to prove that by the consecration of success things evil and odious in the opinion of the multitude, take on a different character, and become lovely and of good report. The history of the famous "Underground Railway," lately published, is no doubt destined to be extensively read, and to enlist the sympathetic interest of tens of thousands who not only declined to take active in the line but abhorred the whole concern as an agency of treason. To live is to lose one's illusions, and when civil war comes to aid in their disintegration the process is of course very rapid.

GOVERNORS BAKER, of Indiana, and NOYES, of Ohio, have appointed a Commission to look after the improvement of the Ohio river and its navigable tributaries, and adopt whatever measures they may deem necessary to accomplish the object, in conformity with the request of the Convention for the Improvement of the Ohio River, recently held at Cincinnati. In view of the great importance of the subject it is to be hoped the Executives of other interested States—Pennsylvania included—will appoint their own Commissions without delay.

IT is to be hoped that the statement which is now made, that the Government has taken such action in the case of Dr. HOWARD as will result in his speedy release by the Spanish authorities, may turn out to be true. Now let there be promptness and efficiency in pushing the measures said to be on foot. This persecuted American citizen is now on his way to Spain, under sentence of penal deportation, wearing the garb of a felon, and having a heavy chain riveted to his waist and ankle. Dr. HOWARD is not a young man, and his sufferings have broken him down. Unless humane haste is made in the matter, his "release" may come from another quarter before the tardy-footed help of his own Government can reach and restore him.

THE editor of the *Sun* promises, in his paper, to appear and testify before the ROBESON Investigating Committee. This is as it should be; but when he impugns the integrity of the Committee by attributing to it a bias in favor of Secretary ROBESON, and otherwise complains of the odds in the Secretary's favor, it is evident that he has grave doubts of being able to hold his ground. But since, according to its own statement, it is the invariable rule of the *Sun* "not to assail any man without sufficient reason, and not to bring any charges until they have been patiently and thoroughly explored and fortified with an abundance of solid evidence," the accuser will have no loophole of excuse or escape out of which to crawl, in the event of failure to make good his charges.

ONE of the Chicago aldermen, who was convicted of receiving bribes and sent to prison, has been, through his friends, bringing much pressure for a pardon to bear on Governor PALMER. The petitioners were rather taken aback when that excellent magistrate told them, that every circumstance they had urged in favor of a pardon afforded the strongest reasons for enforcing the fullest penalty of the law. In a government like ours, he said, a "man elected to a public station who so acts as to destroy the confidence of the people is a far more dangerous criminal than the one who takes a suit of clothes to cover his nakedness, or a loaf of bread to satisfy his hunger." The Governor could not understand why the alderman, a man of means with an interesting family, should corruptly accept money; but he believed that "an intelligent man, with the strong motive of a loving wife and innocent children to restrain him, who is convicted of such an offense is pre-eminently a suitable object for punishment."

ROYALTY, no doubt, is an expensive institution—in England not less than in other countries. Sir CHARLES DILKE makes a grave mistake, however, in attacking it on the score of its cost to the people. Unquestionably there are many retrenchments which ought to be made, and many sinecures and extravagances which ought to be abolished, but that is not the question. The issue between Republicanism and Monarchy is one, not of cost but of character. Would it prove French NAPOLEONISM to be better than Swiss independence, should the rate of taxation in the Republic be somewhat higher than under the late Empire? If Sir CHARLES DILKE is simply a preacher of the Gospel of Circumstance, he might as well bring his exhortations to a close, while if he is the good sooth the second apostle of the new era of manhood as against feudalism and privilege, the question very naturally suggests itself why he does not attest the fact by surrendering the titular distinction attached to his name, and becoming plain citizen DILKE, as befits a champion of the people? For what have earnest and sincere men to do with baubles?

AMONG the acts of Congress recently signed by the President was one entitled "An act for the relief of preemption settlers in the State of California." This is the bill introduced by Senator CONE to remove the disabilities incurred by the two hundred odd unhoused and dispossessed settlers of whose hardships we made mention the other day. Judge DAVIS the Presidential nominee on a platform which expressly declares that the public lands of the United States belong to the people and should be held for the benefit of landless settlers, was one of the Supreme Judges who decided that a settler acquired no vested rights by virtue of preemption, until he had obtained his patent and paid his money; in consequence of which decision these settlers were driven off their claims as described. Congress and the President have now, so far as was possible, redressed the wrong which the workingmen's candidate helped to inflict on workingmen. Spite of the fact that Judge DAVIS has not yet formally accepted the nomination, ought not the industrial classes to hold ratification meetings throughout the country without further delay? Surely his peculiar services in their behalf entitle him to so much consideration.

REVOLUTION IN JAPAN.

IWAKURA, at present Prime Minister of Japan and Chief of the Japanese Embassy, now in Washington, was formerly noted for his hostility to foreigners, and in the official position which he then filled, one of his principal duties was by all means to maintain the traditional Japanese policy of isolation and exclusion. The conversion of such a man is perhaps significant of the reality and extent of the political and social revolution which has taken place in the Japanese empire. In about twelve years the effect of intercourse more or less free with foreigners has been to overthrow institutions, customs and prejudices which had existed for many centuries. Whatever the ultimate results of the change may be, the event must be conceded to illustrate the knowledge of their compatriots possessed by those Japanese conservatives, who for ages insisted on the exclusion of foreigners as the only means of upholding the empire on its old time basis. Fortunately the laws and institutions at length abolished were absolutely so barbarous and generally bad that the reproach of having led to their overthrow is not likely to be keenly felt, even by those foreigners who may happen to be least favorably impressed with recent Japanese reforms. Under the old regime nearly all crimes were punished with death, because, as the Emperor was proprietor of everything, every crime was an offense against either his interests or his dignity, and therefore implied a degree of depravity unworthy of pardon. The people, remarkable above all other people of Asia for determination, fortitude and courage, and also for eccentricity and caprice, were much in the habit of defying their tyrants, and could be at all intimidated and controlled only by new and ingenious devices in torture and punishment. Hence Japan was famous for the West, promptly appreciating and mastering every detail of improvement in its instruments of destruction, and having actually employed accomplished European officers to drill and train their troops, the Japanese may be confidently expected in the near future to perform a great military part in Asia. It would be rash to predict, though it is not foolish to anticipate, that they are destined to schoolmaster their Chinese neighbors in a rather surprising manner.

With reference to the moral or christian effect of foreign intercourse upon these wonderful Asiatic Yankees, it is not easy with our present light to arrive at any satisfactory conclusions. For one thing it is an important fact that infidelity respecting their own religious ideas consequent upon foreign intercourse does not leave the Japanese, as a similar state of mind would leave some other Asiatics without their accustomed moral restraint. The supernatural hangs very loosely about them, and Sintoism has neither a heaven nor a hell sufficiently defined to appeal to human hopes and fears in the regulation of conduct. Christianity with its doctrines of a future life earnestly preached among them is almost certain to be adopted. Its pure morality is known to impress them greatly, as it impresses all races not sunk in barbarism. As the French philosopher remarked, men though rogues *en detail* are *en gros* very honest people who love morality. And the Japanese with their well developed minds and sympathetic natures may reasonably be expected to apprehend the spirit of the New Testament in connection with the customs, life and greatness of those western nations who owe to it the best of their possessions.

RESPECTABLE OPINION IN ENGLAND.

Though one cannot be sure, one may reasonably conjecture that Sir CHARLES DILKE was little, if at all, surprised by the reception accorded to his presumptuous proposition in the House of Commons. If really sincere in his efforts for the propagation of republicanism, he may have been rather gratified than grieved by the stormy scene of which an account was given in our issue of yesterday. People who read the report of what took place will most likely, everywhere, suspect that there was somewhat factitious in the violent demonstration of opposition to a motion for inquiry, which was perfectly legitimate in itself, and which Sir CHARLES DILKE had a manifest right to make. In fact, there can be no doubt that the scene was not characteristic of the legislative body in which it occurred, and that it formed a part or feature of the extraordinary method of treatment by which the English ruling classes hope to put down or rather keep down a movement which is directed against a state of things with which they see no reason to be dissatisfied. In the House of Commons the wealth, aristocracy, learning and established religion of England are represented. The representatives of all these powers are well aware that the ancient political, social and economical system which Sir CHARLES DILKE assails, will not bear examination. It had its beginning in favoritism, in the arbitrary recognition of the claims of persons and classes at the expense of other persons and classes equally meritorious, and in the contempt of indisputable rights, and maintained and expanded through successive centuries with accumulating wrongs, the system has become interwoven with the entire constitution of society and government. Thus all the prosperous classes, all who hold rank and nearly all who feel able to achieve success in spite of existing obstacles, either are or think themselves interested in upholding the State upon its old historical foundations. And in the case of many of them their views of self-interest are reinforced by the sentimentalism which has its roots in the past. The progress of manufacturers, the industrial development of the country and the consequent rise of classes of rich and well to do people independent of the hereditary land-holders made certain reforms and changes in the old system unavoidable. But these alterations were after all merely superficial, and served to enlist the classes for whom they were made in support of the rest of the system. In the presence of the ever increasing importance of the working classes among whom republicanism finds its recruits, conservatives of all grades evidently feel that at present the only true policy consists in preventing inquiry and discussion, if necessary, in the manner which Americans call "bluff." Until quite recently it was comparatively easy to suppress any tendency towards republicanism among the so called "lower orders." The agricultural laborers being mere clods incapable of taking in and much less of originating political speculation, gave no trouble. But the mechanical and manufacturing workers, with their acute and eager minds, were dangerous, and not easily retained in the belief that monarchy always comes from Heaven. That republicanism might be of infernal origin perhaps seemed likely enough to those of them who studied its history in France, or who listened respectfully to aristocratic reports of its doings in the United States; those systematic calumnies concerning this country by which the middle and upper classes in England were so long soothed, and at last led into the commission of that unfortunate blunder of foreign policy at the outbreak of our civil war, for which they have since so bitterly repented. The offence brought its own punishment. In their efforts to counteract the exasperation caused in this country by the mistake, they were compelled, in newspapers and speeches, to utter praises of American republicanism, which no doubt much contributed to commend American example and to awaken, confirm and extend republican sentiment at home. To what extent it prevails there we cannot tell. The party is, however, sufficiently numerous and influential to cause anxiety in the ruling classes, and to prompt those artificial measures for reviving the spirit of loyalty, with which all the world is now familiar. The entire force of "respectable opinion" appears to be brought to bear against such discussions and inquiries, as if freely allowed, would imply that the best possible form of government for England is now an open question. In view of the perils of revolution it would be rash to assume that the House of Commons does wrong in declining to entertain the subject.

CHARLES DICKENS.

The publication of the first volume of Mr. JOHN FORSTER'S Life of CHARLES DICKENS, has afforded occasion to many of reviewing the personal and literary character of the great novelist. In the interval between his death and the appearance of this book enthusiasm has had time to subside, and as the life is the work of "an honest chronicler" familiar with his subject, it furnishes ample materials for the rectification of erroneous fragments formed in ignorance of essential facts. The glowing admiration with which Mr. FORSTER regarded his friend from first to last, has not led him to suppress or withhold either circumstances or language susceptible of an interpretation injurious to the reputation of DICKENS, and the worship heroforth rendered to the man must rest upon a more real, if not a more solid foundation than mere inferences respecting his personal character derived from the impressions produced by his works. In the first volume the biographer's criticism of the early novels, as he records their composition and publication, is merely incidental, an extended estimate of DICKENS's works being probably reserved for the conclusion of the life. From these passing comments may conclude that Mr. FORSTER ranks among those who assign him one of the very highest places in the catalogue of great writers of fiction, whether in prose or verse. In reference to the character of the man as distinguished from the author, the biographer seems to have been so completely under the influence of a kind of fascination as to be, not blind to his faults and foibles, but incapable of meting out to them due condemnation. To him they apparently seemed compensated or obscured in the admirable virtues and splendid qualities with which they were associated. Not only English admirers but American idolaters of Mr. DICKENS, unblinded by personal friendship, have been not a little shocked to learn from Mr. FORSTER'S memoir that in Mr. MICAWBER the great novelist has held up to the laughter of the world the faults of his own father, Mr. JOHN DICKENS; a fact which throws a lurid light on the coarseness of feeling. But this is not the worst. In their hard struggle with poverty DICKENS's father and mother, who had several children dependent upon them, found it necessary to place CHARLES when a young boy in a blacking manufactory carried on by a relative, that he might earn his bread by the work of his hands. Having been withdrawn from this unsuitable occupation on account of a difficulty between his father and the proprietor, his mother endeavored to effect a reconciliation that her son might be restored to the place. Many years afterwards when DICKENS was in the full current of his splendid successes, referring to this maternal effort, he says, "I never afterwards forgot, I never shall forget, I never can forget, that my mother was warm for my being sent back." The passage duly meditated throws a strong though indirect light upon an event of Mr. DICKENS's later life, his persistent resolution carried out in spite of the prayers and remonstrances of friends, to separate from his wife, his companion for thirty years and the mother of his children. He had ceased to find the connection! And because MESSRS. BRADBURY and EVANS, proprietors of *Punch*, who sympathized with MRS. DICKENS, refused to let his statement of the affair appear in their paper, DICKENS did all in his power to ruin them, or at least to cause them heavy pecuniary loss, by dropping *Household Words* in which they were interested, and starting *All the Year Round*. This and some other facts illustrative of the novelist's relentless spirit have lately been revived in London through letters called forth by the publication of Mr. FORSTER'S book. In the *Times* DICKENS's gentlemanly character has also been the subject of discussion. That very genteel newspaper, while acknowledging his great genius as a writer, asserts that as a man he could always be excluded from good society, and that he had not the manners of a gentleman, with much more edifying matter. His taste in dress, it seems, was bad. These latter charges are surely very terrible, and likely to prove as damaging to DICKENS's reputation as Lord CHESTERFIELD's charge of vulgarity has proved to the fame of HOMER. We must, however, add that one of DICKENS's novelists has already appeared in his defense, and in a letter to the *Times* quite vigorously tried to vindicate his gentility.

LONGEVITY.

In his lately published "Recollections of Past Life," Sir HENRY HOLLAND, M. D., F. R. S., etc., mentions a discussion on the subject of longevity, in which he once took part at the Athenæum Club. The chief disputants on one side were MACAULAY and Sir GEORGE CORNWALL LEWIS, who both affirmed their persuasion that no authentic record could be produced of life exceeding a hundred years. Dr. HOLLAND maintained that in every age, country and race of men we had concurrent record of ages much exceeding a hundred, and this argument from testimony seemed to him confirmed by the analogy of the extreme diversities of human stature and weight. These diversities being as great in proportion to the many allowed exceptions of the latter would be in itself a greater anomaly than any of the ordinary examples of extreme longevity. Dr. HOLLAND states that shortly before Sir G. LEWIS's death he received a letter from him, in which he admitted having found an authentic case of life prolonged to 163 years. Indeed, there can be little doubt that Sir GEORGE LEWIS carried skepticism to an extreme in this as in some other well-known instances. Dr. HOLLAND, while allowing that, the cases of JENKINS and the Countess of Desmond may be deemed apocryphal, thinks it not easy to put aside that of THOMAS PARR, accredited by the celebrated HARVEY, who examined his body after death. PARR lived to be nearly 150 years old. Dr. WEBSTER, a member of the Royal Society, made a collection of examples of extreme longevity which he thought established as sufficient evidence, and from the social rank of some of the persons mentioned in his catalogue, it is hard to understand how there could have been any important mistake in the record. Several of WEBSTER'S cases reached nearly the age of 200, and so many of them survived their 130th year as to give some color of probability to what is said concerning "old PENAL," who died, a few weeks ago, in Kansas City. Neither he nor his neighbors pretended to know exactly how old he was, though nobody doubted that he was the oldest inhabitant. People sixty years old and more remembered him as a gray headed old man when they were children, and none of those who knew him seem to doubt that he was at least 134 years old. His proper name was JACOB FOURNAIS, and he was a French Canadian by birth. A French paper of Montreal, the *Opinion Publique*, gives an interesting account of him. The writer says that when he first became acquainted with FOURNAIS, sixteen years ago, the old man enjoyed perfect health and the full use of his intellectual faculties. His memory was especially vigorous. "He told us," says the *Opinion*, "that he was working on a piece of land which he had bought near Quebec, when WOLF met with his death on the Plains of Abraham. This took place on the 13th of September, 1759, and from what he told us of his life before that date, we were convinced that at that time he was more than twenty-five years old. Thinking that he might be confounding WOLF with MONTGOMERY—1775—we questioned him at length, but we saw clearly that he made no mistake; in fact, he recollected everything—names, places, incidents impossible to relate with more order and clearness." Having become a hunter and trapper in the West, he was engaged in the famous expedition of LEWIS and CLARKE to the mouth of the Columbia river in 1804-7. Afterwards settled in New Orleans, during the occupation of the city by General JACKSON, they refused to recruit FOURNIAS "because he was too old." He was, in fact, about eighty. In his last days he was well taken care of by the family in which he was domiciled, and a few minutes before his death he was able to walk about his room. Such cases are curious and worthy of wide publication, that they may be authenticated or refuted, and also that attention may be directed to the subject which they illustrate.

THE GERMAN ITALIAN ALLIANCE.

Prince FREDERICK CHARLES, of Prussia, is said to be as great in diplomacy as in war. Before he had acquired any particular distinction as a military commander the Prince published a professional book which would have made a brilliant reputation for a plebeian. "Though on every page exhibiting the results of long and patient labor as well as abundant evidence of acuteness and penetration in the author, no one has ever dared to question that the Prince himself wrote the book." We quote the language of a competent page. A Prince so able and accomplished who has also filled the world with the renown of his military exploits, undoubtedly enters upon the work of diplomacy with many advantages, and is probably just such an ambassador as Prince BISMARCK needs and desires to aid him in effecting the alliances and arrangements required for the consolidation of the new German empire. The reported alliance between Italy and Germany by which Rome is granted to one and Elsass to the other certainly seems likely enough to be a fact. It has been foreshadowed ever since the close of the war as a combination which each of the Great Powers concerned must seek to bring about in the interest of its own security, and of the peace of Europe, as Germans are not more confident that France will some day try to regain her lost provinces than Italians are confident that France will not for many a day look with an evil eye upon their kingdom with Rome as its capital. For many years to come an attempt on the part of France to recover what she has lost would simply plunge the nation into deeper degradation, and hence no event is a misfortune which serves to make manifest to her politicians the futility of their schemes of revenge. Therefore even the friendship of France may well rejoice in a German-Italian alliance. Those who wish well to Italy see in the event a guaranty of steady progress in the ways of political reform and religious enlightenment. Even those Americans who sympathize so keenly with the poor old Pope in his afflictions, may find comfort in recent reports concerning the state of feeling in the Vatican. In fact, there is good reason to believe, that while good Catholics at a distance are denouncing VICTOR EMANUEL and his Ministers as guilty of robbery and sacrilege, and blessing the Jesuit advisers of the Holy Father as the wise champions of the Church, a spirit of division and discord is daily growing stronger in the Pope's palace. In the Vatican itself sagacious men have long seen that Jesuit counsellors were hurrying the church to destruction, or at least upon frightful breakers and quicksands, and that the true policy for the Pope to pursue was one of moderation and conciliation. To recognize the occupation of Rome by Italy as an established fact, which was inevitable, and at once to accept the conditions proposed by the Italian government are steps now urged, it is alleged, by a majority of the cardinals and priests about His Holiness. With these advisers the Pope sympathizes and is consequently fallen into bitter disfavor with the Jesuits, who maintain their ascendancy only by a system of terrorism. If these statements are correct, a reconciliation between the Pope and VICTOR EMANUEL may be looked for soon, and it is not improbable that the presence of Prince FREDERICK CHARLES in Rome, and the German alliance, will turn out to have had much to do with a consummation so devoutly to be wished.

SLIGHTLY SCARED.

The engineers of the projected Cincinnati Conference have been startled by the explosion of a thunderbolt which has come in the form of a suggestion from the New York *Herald*, that "the friends of GRANT should go to Cincinnati;" that, if that gathering was to be a "conference," there was no reason why all the recognized leaders of the Republican party should not take part in it and control it for the best interests of the country by indorsing the Presidential previous to his renomination at Philadelphia.

The *World* wishes it "to be understood that the attitude of the Democrats toward the Cincinnati affair is that of spectators," but it admits that "this is a hopeful scheme for reversing the guns" of the malcontents, "and turning their movement into a fiasco.

More seriously the *Tribune* seems to feel upon the subject, and betrays its alarm by a tone of injured querelousness, at once pitiful and amusing. It says, after the manner of whimpering boys, who fancy more belligerent school fellows are going to strike them: Now, you leave us alone! We are'nt agoing to hurt you! "Nobody is going to interfere with your Philadelphia Convention in June, and the Cincinnati Convention is none of your affair. You did not call it; you are not invited; your presence is not desired. Attend your own business and run your own machine."

With its tongue in its cheek and the off side of its countenance puckered into the most mephistophelic of winks, the *World* pats its scared contemporary on the back and tells it not to be afraid; that those terrible GRANT men can't get in "if ordinary precautions are taken to keep them out." "Admit people to the hall where you assemble by ticket only," says the *World*. "If tickets are given to GRANT men it will be the fault of the conveners of the hall." "Only those holding delegates' tickets can participate in the proceedings, and we do not see how partizans of GRANT can get such tickets if the affair is well managed." "No tickets of admission should be given to New York delegates who are not indorsed or vouched for by MR. GREELEY or his known friends; and the same respecting Missouri and the other States."

This advice shows that the *World* is a little bit frightened too at the threatened danger to its prospective ally; but its Democratic experiences somewhat reassure it. What it does not know about managing political meetings —from a ward primary to a National Convention—is scarcely worth learning. But, if its advice be taken, what becomes of the "spontaneousness" of the opposition movement, that we read so much about? If the Cincinnati crowd is to be packed in this way the people will very quickly form their own conclusions about it. They will believe, and rightly, that it is like a great many other sorehead powwows, which have come together, generated an immense amount of gas, relieved themselves with long winded speeches and resolutions at the expense of a suffering press and public, and then ignominiously and not fragrantly collapsed.

TRUSTING partly to the reported popular reaction in Grant's favor, and partly in the influence of the concessions which they make to Gentile avarice and prejudice in the Constitution adopted, the Mormon leaders hope for an early admission of their territory as a State of the Union. On the 18th inst., the Constitution proposed was adopted unanimously, and FULLER, the Mormon candidate for Congress, met with no opposition. The Gentiles resident in the Territory took no part in the election. In fact, on the 16th, two days before the election, they held a mass meeting, at which they resolved to protest before Congress against the admission of Utah as a State, and they also resolved to send a delegation consisting of two women to Washington to work against the project of admission by exposing the domestic life of the Mormons and their politics and designs. We notice that some of our contemporaries attach importance to the fact that the Mormon women, allowed to vote by the new constitution, voted for admission, and thus gave their voice in favor of the abrogation of polygamy. One of the concessions made in the Constitution is the disuse of the peculiar institution. It is, however, likely that once become a State, Mormondom would either forget or ignore the concession as having been made in a moment of lapse from grace, and would exult in the success of the manœuvre by which it had placed its venerable usage under the protection of the Constitution of the United States. An amendment of the Constitution would then be a necessary preliminary to a lawful attack on polygamy. It is a part of the Mormon religion, and however much some of the women may as women hate the custom, we are well assured, that as saints and believers, they cherish it not less tenderly than the men. The other important concession made in the new Constitution is the right of the Gentiles to work the mines of Utah. But as this right is already exercised, that feature of the instrument is not likely to have much weight in securing the Mormon demand. Congress will do nothing so foolish as to grant their prayer.

WHILE as liable as any other people to be carried away by the tide of prejudice and passion, Americans can not long either knowingly inflict or quietly endure direct persecutions for the sake of opinion. Sympathy for the persecuted, recognized as such, soon springs up among us, and demands that the fires be put out. BRIGHAM YOUNG and the other astute elders of the Utah theocracy apparently well understand this American trait, and trust in its influence for the prolongation of their dominion. We do not, however, mean to admit that the Mormons, in the recent proceedings of the United States authorities respecting them, have suffered anything which may with any justice or propriety be called persecution. Though the representatives of the Government may not have always acted with becoming coolness and dignity, they have done only what they were sent to do, and the object of their labors, properly understood, receives the approval of the entire non-Mormon population of the country. But the Mormons have declared themselves persecuted, and have found Gentiles to confirm the report, with the result of enlisting not a little misplaced sympathy in their behalf. The sympathy is misplaced because it is generally founded either upon forgetfulness of Mormon history, or upon a partial knowledge of the plan by which the Government is trying to establish its authority and get rid of polygamy in Utah. In the estimation of all right minded people who know by actual observation the real character of Mormonism in its past and present state, the system can claim from a Christian nation no other indulgence than such as may be dictated by humanity for the erring and by considerations of public policy. And there is no reason to anticipate that in its efforts to abolish its most mischievous peculiarity, the Government intends to disregard the obligations of mercy towards the innocent children and ignorant women who are involved in the system.

ONE of the most interesting incidents in the life of Senator SCHURZ was his agency in the escape of Professor KINKEL from the Prussian fortress of Spandau; an incident of which we are reminded by the announcement of the death of ANDRE HUSSMAN, the farmer, who furnished the conveyance by which the fugitives were enabled with the necessary speed to get beyond the Prussian frontier. It seems that the name of the person who thus aided their flight was kept secret as long as he lived. Born in 1815, KINKEL was still a young man in 1848, when he became involved in the political and revolutionary movements of that memorable year, and yet his reputation for ability and various intellectual accomplishments was so great as to make almost any degree of literary ambition seem reasonable. The son of a clergyman and intended for the same profession, KINKEL was led by his predominant tastes to devote himself to the study of Christian art, and spent a considerable time in Italy for that purpose. As a lecturer at Bonn, where he ultimately became a professor, his eloquence and learning drew crowds of enthusiastic young men to hear him, and as an occasional preacher he was equally admired. He also became distinguished as a poet. At Bonn one of his students was CARL SCHURZ. This is not the place to tell the story of KINKEL's rebellion. In 1850 he was a prisoner on hard conditions, and probably for life, in the strongfold named above. Schurz having been engaged in the same adventure which proved fatal to KINKEL, and then having joined the Baden rebels and been taken prisoner, made his escape into Switzerland. He seems to have been chosen by powerful friends of KINKEL, of whom one was the Baroness BRUENINGK, to take the lead in an attempt to deliver the Professor from his captivity. Assuming a false name and the disguise of a medical student he went to Berlin, and in due time completely succeeded in the uncertain and perilous enterprise.

REMARKING on the recent loss at sea of the famous clipper ship the "Great Republic," the St. Louis *Republican* indulges in some reflections concerning the renowned series of vessels of similar character constructed by her builder, and says:

"What glorious legends of commercial power cluster around those ships-yard names should be thought of the party and the policy which have reduced that power to the level of the world's contempt!"

Now, it is by no means apparent that the commercial marine of the United States is in the pitiable condition suggested. That there is room for great improvement, and pressing necessity that means shall at once be used to produce it, is as much beyond question as that the party of which the *Republican* assumes to be an authoritative spokesman, the other day, by its representatives in Congress, set itself over in almost solid opposition to a measure expressly designed to revive and foster these important but languishing interests. Still, the plight of our mercantile navy is not wholly hopeless. "The party and the policy" which put the *Alabama* and her consort pirates on the seas, and drove so large a portion of our shipping to seek safety under a foreign flag," did not wreak all the ruin for which it hoped. Something still left to us, and if the true Democratic party shall profit by the advice of that sagacious and clear-seeing member of it—Hon. JAMES BROOKS—and cease further to "array itself against the commerce and trade of the country," the era of deserted ship-yards will be about over. As to "what shall be thought of the party and the policy" which have brought the present condition of things to pass, must be left for the people to answer next fall. What they have heretofore thought concerning these matters, the possum policy pretty clearly shows.

IT is respectfully suggested that when two free trade newspapers, published within a stone's throw of each other, and each dealing with the same subject, undertake to convince the people of the country that they are perfectly in error concerning a given matter, some other way of setting about it should be hit upon than that of flatly contradicting each other at the start. Thus, we yesterday quoted the New York *Economist* to the effect that "the large excess of supply of fleece wool, which can only be consumed in the production of fancy cassimeres, is fast hurrying many producers on to bankruptcy." The facts of the *Economist*, declaring that "the American wool of last year being consumed, the new Australian clip all taken up in Europe, all sources of supply for Ohio and Michigan wool now on the sheep's back, sixty-five to seventy-five cents a pound are offered, and farmers refuse to sell at those figures, demanding eighty and expecting to receive ninety cents and a dollar a pound." We leave the task of reconciling this "large excess of supply" and the enormous universal demand, to be settled by the journals in question. The process will doubtless prove interesting. But when the *Express* charges the present "wool famine" upon the protective tariff, and attributes the low prices of wool which prevailed in 1867-68, to the same cause, what becomes of the favorite—indeed the only—argument of the free traders, that the sole operation of the tariff is to put prices up for the benefit of the producer and to the cost of the consumer? If the imposition of the tariff caused that decline, would it not be a prudent stroke of policy to increase the duty on iron and steel, that the people might get those important articles at cheaper rates than now?

THERE seems to be no question that the colored voters of the Southern States almost unanimously favor the renomination of President GRANT. Recent letters from prominent colored Republicans in various quarters of that section state that the general sentiment prevails very strongly in this direction, and we observe that Rev. J. SELLA MARTIN, formerly a slave, who has just returned from an extended tour through the South, gives it as his opinion that the negroes are in no event likely to divide, since they know little of any other candidate for President than General GRANT, in whom it is natural their confidence should be placed. He says the committees who go South roost too high and confine their observations too much to cities to gain a knowledge of the real state of the rural districts, where the old prejudices exist to a great extent. The negro is patient and full of gratitude for his present, compared with his past condition, and loyal to the party which had done so much to improve him. The desire for education is growing with the establishment of schools, and bullets that have missed their death-dealing mission on the plains are gathered up by negro youngsters and sold for money to buy spelling books. Mr. MARTIN says he is convinced from what he has seen that should the anti-bagging, anti-personal motives, enter into a combination to defeat the Republican party, they would soon be compelled to take their carpet-bags and leave the region they had invaded for the mere purpose of gain. He says that so-called "Liberal Republicanism" is repudiated as Democracy in disguise, and that in any event the colored people of that region will vote for the nominee of the Philadelphia Convention almost to a man.

THE New York *Herald* has "interviewed" Admiral POLO, the new Spanish Minister at Washington, who—if the language attributed to him is to be relied on—is not a little grieved at the reports which have obtained currency and credence concerning his hostility toward the United States. He denies ever having written any books, pamphlets or articles reflecting on the American people or their institutions, and expresses himself completely at a loss to understand how the report to this effect could have originated. He believes that all the questions now pending between the United States and the Spanish Government can be settled in a friendly manner; while, with respect to Cuba, he holds that the insurrection should be first completely suppressed, and then the people "educated up to free institutions," whatever in his view that may mean. With regard to the murder of the Havana students, he says he was "shocked" when he heard of it—a gratifying fact to learn; since if he really be a man of this humane cast he will of course be only too glad to exert his official powers to secure justice for Dr. HOWARD, the American citizen, who for the crime of binding up the wounds of certain Cuban insurgents, has just been sent by the Spanish authorities into exile in Africa. We suggest that, when the reply of Secretary FISH to the House resolution of inquiry concerning this matter has been received, the Admiral—who will doubtless by that time have presented his credentials and entered on the discharge of his Ministerial functions—be afforded an opportunity of putting a few of his fine sentiments into practice.

JUDGE CARPENTER, late defeated Democratic candidate for Governor of South Carolina, and still more recently one of the "Liberal" orators who by the bitterness of their attacks on the administration helped to swell the Republican vote which redeemed the Granite State, has gone into Convention to perform, it is to be hoped, a similar sort of service—whence he writes to a South Carolina paper trying to explain how it came about that his sophomoric eloquence had so little effect on the people of New Hampshire. The causes of the defeat of the Democratic ticket were, he says, "numerous," which is quite true. Indeed, there were some fifteen hundred of these "causes," that being about the majority which Governor STRAW received. When, however, Judge CARPENTER goes off into the heroic vein, and talks of "hurling from power the present dynasty," and defeating an administration "unparalleled in the history of civilization for its imbecility in action and its scandalous corruption," as loftily and authoritatively as though he were high-seated JOVE himself, one is tempted to inquire where he got the thunder-bolts with which he proposes to execute these dreadful judgments? Such noisy impotence, from a man late the political associate and candidate of unreconstructed Bourbons and unrepentent rebels, and whose only political achievements consist of a harvest of blunders and defeats, however it may be relished in the South, will be apt to strike the average New England mind as slightly absurd. The common sense of these people is so strong that they do not stand in the least danger of mistaking the sound of a Chinese gong for thunder.

ACCORDING to the *Ally. Zeitung*, reports have lately been received at Pera from which it appears that while the plague and the cholera have ceased to prevail in Persia, the famine still continues in all its rigor. Indeed, misery and deaths from this cause cannot be expected to come to an end before the next harvest, from five to six months distant. In the capital, Teheran, the streets are covered with dead bodies because there is no one to bury them, while half starved people fight with the street dogs for a share of the loathsome food thus provided. The same authority states that the Turkish government has sent large quantities of grain into the famine stricken districts of Persia. In order to guard against abuse in its distribution, the Turkish plan is to sell the grain at a low price to the muledrivers who transport it, and who are dispatched in parties succeeding one another at short intervals. Thus though each driver is at liberty to put his own price on his cargo, yet knowing that other drivers are at hand with fresh supplies, the opportunity for extortion is limited. It is, however, horrible to think, as suggested in this report, that Persian officials are very likely to interfere for their own profit with the execution of the plan of relief. In Mohammedan religious ethics both almsgiving and honesty are highly meritorious. If in practice shortcomings and offenses abound, the failure is not peculiar to Persia. But there is a difference. The rogues who in Chicago tried to grow rich on the gifts of money to the suffering, hardly invoked the Divine blessing on their endeavors, and were thus not as bad as their Persian *confreres*, who literally do everything in the name of ALLAH.

PHILADELPHIA is suffering from another attack of capital removal fever, which threatens to reach even a higher stage than did that of last year. The City Councils have passed a resolution requesting the Legislature to pass a bill providing for such removal, and offering ground for a site for the capitol buildings. It is also stated that the House Committee have unanimously agreed to report a bill authorizing the step. All the arguments which were last year advanced to sustain the proposition are again adduced in favor of it—the "family" argument, the "moral society" argument, the "intellectual and moral advantage" plea, and so on to the end of the chapter. We are still of the opinion that there is no need of hurry in the matter. It is true that the delectable "Commission" project no longer exists as an obstacle to the removal, nor is it improbable that the moral gains accruing to Philadelphia in that event would fully compensate for whatever losses of other character the execution of the plan might inflict upon her. It may perhaps be questioned, however, whether Philadelphia could afford to become any worse than she is in some quarters thought to be at present—even for the sake of such a valuable prize. At all events, it will be safe to wait until it is seen how the pending contest in the Fourth Senatorial district eventuates. The people will then be better able to judge of the statement of some of the Philadelphia papers that "the opportunities for success in evil doing would be greatly diminished" by transferring the capitol to that city, which is a matter at present considerably in doubt.

CARL BLIND, the able London correspondent of the Pittsburgh *Volksblatt*, seems to have taken much care and trouble to observe and study the people on the occasion of the great thanksgiving for the recovery of the Prince of Wales. Having made an extensive circuit through the most thronged streets and having taken a detailed survey of the whole from its midst of the crowd at the triumphal arch on Ludg